Susan G. Komen has led the fight to create a world without breast cancer for nearly four decades.

We remain steadfast in our mission to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

We are actively working to drive change through spearheading public policy and advocacy, eliminating racial barriers and inequities in healthcare, discovering breakthrough treatments and providing direct support for patients in need.

Thank you to our corporate partners, donors and thousands of individual advocates, volunteers and fundraisers who join us to support those who need help today as we tirelessly search for tomorrow’s cures.

“Susan G. Komen brought us together to do better — so we could unite and lift each other up. If we could all just come together, imagine what the world would be like.”

Ashley Fernandez, living with metastatic breast cancer

Read Ashley’s story on page 28
Together we’ve made great progress:

- Through early detection and effective treatments, we’ve helped reduce the breast cancer mortality rate in the U.S. by 42% since 1989.

- We’ve invested nearly $1.1 billion in research, leading to new ways to prevent, diagnose and better treat breast cancer to further our goal of higher-quality care.

- We’ve invested more than $7.7 million in community health programs in the last year alone to ensure people get the help they need to understand the disease, access screening and diagnostic exams, remove barriers to care and receive support every step of the way.

Yet despite all of our momentum:

- Breast cancer is still the most common cancer in women worldwide and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the U.S.

- Black women are about 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women and have a lower five-year relative breast cancer survival rate compared to white women.

- About every two minutes, somewhere in the U.S., a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

- More than an estimated 168,000 people in the U.S. are living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC), which is the most advanced stage of breast cancer.

- Nearly 44,000 people in the U.S. are expected to die from breast cancer this year alone.
A breast cancer diagnosis is a life-changing moment that shakes anyone to their very core.

No matter the type of breast cancer or stage, it is our duty to be there for the individual who hears the words, “You have breast cancer.” This is a disease that will affect nearly 300,000 new women and men in the U.S. in 2022 alone. It is still the most common type of cancer found in women in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer death in women. For forty years, Susan G. Komen® has stood at the forefront of change, demanding that individuals be able to talk openly about breast cancer and not be shunned into the shadows, mobilizing communities across the world and completely revolutionized the way people support a cause.

Using our unique 360-degree approach, we have invested in research and supported and convened world-renowned experts to lead the way to new discoveries, technological advancements and delivery of care. We have given voice to the millions affected by breast cancer by advocating for patient needs with state and federal policymakers. We have developed direct-to-patient solutions and education for health care workers that reduce barriers to care. We have done all of this behind a clear and simple vision for the future — a world without breast cancer. But the work does not stop here. We still have a long way to go.

While our vision and mission to save lives from breast cancer have not changed, how we accomplish it has. We have completed our transformation into a single, united entity this year. As the world’s leading breast cancer organization, we are working to conquer aggressive and deadly breast cancers to help people live longer, better lives, ensure all people get the care they need and achieve health equity. Together, with thousands of supporters, Komen drives research breakthroughs. Guided by world-renowned breast cancer researchers, clinicians and experts, we evaluate and invest in science and technology that will further advance the field and bring the greatest benefits to breast cancer patients.

As the trusted breast health care guide, Komen provides care to anyone in the U.S. through evidence-based education, personalized support and connection to timely, high-quality care. The Komen Patient Care Center provides direct patient services through the Breast Care Helpline, the only national support line dedicated to breast cancer that provides emotional support, breast health education, local resource referrals and clinical trials information. The Patient Care Center also provides patient navigation, connection to screening and diagnostics and financial assistance across the U.S. to ensure no one faces breast cancer alone. In this report, you will learn how Komen’s Patient Care Center has seen a 54% growth in the use of our services in the last year.

Komen continues to be committed to advancing health equity and our community health programs are designed to eliminate disparities by removing barriers to care by focusing on communities disproportionately affected by breast cancer. This year, more than 91% of those served by Komen’s Patient Care Center said the service helped them overcome barriers to care and 90% said it improved their quality of life.
The Susan G. Komen Difference

Komen is the world’s only breast cancer organization with nearly four decades of experience, investing in groundbreaking research, community health programs, care services, education and advocacy in more than 60 countries.

Our Strategic Imperatives

We are committed to addressing our two strategic imperatives to achieve our mission. Our core approaches inform each other, allowing us to work collaboratively and more effectively to address these issues.

Conquer aggressive and deadly breast cancers to help people live longer, better lives.

Ensure all people get the care they need and achieve health equity.

Drive RESEARCH
Guided by world renowned experts, we evaluate and invest in science and technology that will provide the greatest benefit to patients.

Provide CARE
We serve as a trusted breast health care guide by providing evidence-based education, personalized support and connection to timely, high-quality care.

Take ACTION
We mobilize people to advocate for policies that protect patients, prioritize research and create lasting systemic changes to improve outcomes for all.

Unify COMMUNITY
We unite communities that are bonded by a common interest and come together to deliver a greater impact in ending breast cancer.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

Nearly 26,000 people served by the Patient Care Center, a 54% increase year over year.

$21.7 million invested in 48 research grants.

250 trained public policy advocates took to Capitol Hill virtually for our annual Advocacy Summit.

73 Black individuals trained as culturally competent patient navigators.
Despite successes in awareness and progress in diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer remains a devastating disease. Komen believes that the future of breast cancer treatment, prevention and diagnosis will come from breakthrough research in the most deadly and aggressive forms of breast cancer and solving the causes of breast cancer health disparities.

Komen has invested nearly $1.1 billion in breast cancer research — more than any other nonprofit and second only to the U.S government — including nearly $22 million invested in 48 grants in the past year. Our focus remains to advance personalized medicine and improve health outcomes for everyone.

This year, Komen invited more than 100 institutions to nominate their early career breast cancer researchers, with an emphasis on researchers from underrepresented minority backgrounds, to apply for Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research (CCR) Grants to support innovative projects focused on metastatic breast cancer (MBC). CCR grants support both promising research and promising researchers.

**CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH (CCR) GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Maria Sosa, Ph.D., from Icahn School of Medicine will study cancer cell dormancy in early disseminated cancer cells. The aim of this study is to identify potential new drugs that target a particular protein that promotes cancer growth and prevent disseminated dormant cancer cells from growing and forming metastases.

Sonya Reid, M.D., MPH, from Vanderbilt University Medical Center will conduct a clinical trial focused on hormone receptor-positive HER2-negative MBC. Tumor samples will be tested for 80 genes to better understand breast cancer genomics across underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and how genomics impacts breast cancer survival and disparities.

**RESEARCH DISCOVERIES**

- Komen Scientific Advisory Board Member Carlos Arteaga, M.D., and his team found that mutations in the HER2 and HER3 genes can promote tumor growth and progression, ultimately suppressing a patient’s response to HER2-targeting drugs.
- A team of researchers at Boston University led by Komen Scholar Julie Palmer, Sc.D., developed a breast cancer prediction tool to help Black women better understand their risk of developing breast cancer disease.
- Research co-led by Komen Chief Scientific Advisor Jennifer Pietenpol, Ph.D., and former Komen Grantee Brian Lehmann, Ph.D., found a subtype of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) can escape detection by the immune system and evade immunotherapy.
- A study by Komen Grantee Anne Marie McCarthy, Ph.D., found that breast density and higher body mass index are strong risk factors for TNBC in Black women.

**2021 BRINKER AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DISTINCTION**

Judy Garber, M.D., MPH, received Komen’s Brinker Award for Clinical Research for her trailblazing work and significant contributions in clinical cancer genetics, which has shaped the care of people with breast cancer, their families and those at risk of breast cancer. Her research is advancing our understanding of the role of BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations in breast cancer, as well as the treatment and prevention of TNBC and other BRCA-associated cancers.

“With an experienced and diverse group of patient advocates, we provide a very critical perspective in all aspects of breast cancer research. We aren’t scientists, but we are trained to effectively utilize our personal experiences as patients to influence research objectives and approaches. It’s so rewarding to know that our input ensures that research is laser-focused on work that will ultimately translate into significantly better clinical outcomes.” — Meryl Weinreb, M.A., Komen Scholar and Advocate in Science

Carlos Caldas, M.D., received Komen’s Brinker Award for Basic Science for his pioneering work in breast cancer genetics and genomics, which helped define molecular subtypes of breast cancer and identify the genomic changes that drive tumor growth.

“The ability to forecast treatment response based on characterizing the tumor ecosystem will transform the practice of oncology. This research was only possible due to the persistence and commitment of the clinical and research teams and the generous funding supporting the research.” — Carlos Caldas, M.D.
CLINICAL TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Since 1982, Komen has supported more than 520 clinical trials that are unlocking new knowledge about breast cancer and helping to advance patient care.

Bryan Schneider, M.D., is leading a clinical trial focused on improving outcomes for Black women with breast cancer. This study will determine which Black women are most at-risk for peripheral neuropathy, a painful side effect from chemotherapy, and which regularly prescribed chemotherapy treatment causes fewer peripheral neuropathy side effects for Black women with breast cancer.

A study led by Komen Grantee Rachel Freedman, M.D., MPH, is conducting a clinical trial focused on older patients, a group often underrepresented in clinical trials. In this study, Dr. Freedman is studying how to improve breast cancer and overall health outcomes for older people with breast cancer.

BONE HEALTH STUDY

With the support of Amgen, Komen engaged in a partnership called Predict and Prevent to survey and empower women across the country about bone health, especially women with MBC, as the most common site of breast cancer metastases is the bone.

Through this survey, Komen learned that nearly all women with bone metastases are aware of the increased risk of bone fractures. However, only 62% of these women are taking medications specifically to prevent bone fractures. This study showed that doctors need to be better educated about how to protect bones during breast cancer treatment to better serve patients.

NOVEL TOOL FOR DIAGNOSIS OF INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

In February 2022, a group led by Komen published a first-of-its-kind tool to help doctors better diagnose inflammatory breast cancer (IBC). This tool was developed through a collaborative effort between Komen, the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Milburn Foundation, leading breast cancer experts and IBC patients. The group identified defining characteristics of IBC and developed a quantitative scoring system for diagnosis, which is intended to increase the diagnostic accuracy of IBC and bolster future IBC research.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC) COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Komen MBC Collaborative Research Initiative is a first-of-its-kind collaborative effort that is uniting the best and brightest researchers at Duke Cancer Institute and University of North Carolina (UNC) Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center to find breakthrough discoveries to end metastatic breast cancer (MBC) and give hope to those living with the disease. Komen hosted a summit with 125 researchers, clinicians and patient advocates from Duke and UNC to kickstart ideas and spearhead collaborations, ultimately awarding three research grants that will advance MBC patient care and improve patient outcomes.

The Susan G. Komen and Blue Cross NC MBC Disparities Collaborative Research Grant was awarded to Duke’s Jennifer Freedman, Ph.D., and Steven Patierno, Ph.D., as well as UNC’s Katherine Hoadley, Ph.D., to investigate how the ancestry of different populations impacts the immune response to MBC.

The Susan G. Komen and Gilead Sciences, Inc. for North Carolina’s MBC Collaborative Research Grant was awarded to UNC’s Melissa Troester, Ph.D., and Duke’s Dr. Terry Hyslop, Ph.D. They will use information on tumor biology and social factors in UNC’s long-standing Carolina Breast Cancer Study to understand racial differences in breast cancer metastasis and death.

The Susan G. Komen NC Metastatic Breast Cancer Disparities Collaborative Research Grant was awarded to UNC’s Benjamin Vincent, M.D., and Duke’s Zachary Hartman, Ph.D., to develop a personalized antitumor vaccine strategy for patients with advanced triple negative breast cancer.
Rhonda Howell knew it was a question of when, not if, breast cancer would end her life. After early-stage breast cancer spread to her spine and liver, Rhonda raised critical funds for MBC research. She never lost hope that one day the disease could become curable, giving the coveted gift of more time to people like her, a wife and mother.

Rhonda passed away on Jan. 26, 2022, at 42 years old. In the final days of her life, Rhonda’s vision for a world without MBC never waned, her husband, Adam Howell, remembers. “She was so passionate about the research all the way until the very end,” Adam says. “She felt it was so important for us to find the money to be able to fund the research. She did everything in her power and fought as hard as she possibly could, but it wasn’t enough to keep her here any longer.”

After marrying in 2011, Rhonda and Adam welcomed their son, Luke, one year later in 2012. When Luke was 15 months old, Rhonda, then 34, was diagnosed with stage II breast cancer. Following a double mastectomy, four rounds of chemotherapy and 35 rounds of radiation therapy, Rhonda had no signs of cancer in 2013. About 18 months later, Rhonda got out of bed and immediately collapsed. Doctors confirmed the cancer had metastasized to her spine. Following a surgical procedure to stabilize vertebrae in her back, further scans confirmed the cancer had also spread to her liver. Luke was 6 years old at the time. Rhonda’s oncologist told her the average life expectancy for patients following an MBC diagnosis is three years.

Rhonda dedicated the rest of her life to raising funds for MBC research, ultimately living six and a half years after her diagnosis. She passed away amidst planning to co-chair her fourth fundraising gala. In total, she raised $375,000 to fund research grants for cures to the disease that ultimately claimed her life. Her fundraising achievements are a fitting legacy for a “warm, caring person who put others first,” Adam remembers, even on her darkest days.

“She fought cancer so hard, but she also tried so hard to help other people and stay so positive. Her strength was so inspiring to me,” Adam says. “I know for a fact that if it was myself or somebody who wasn’t as strong as she was, they would not have made it six and a half years. I think her will to fight — her determination — was what kept her here as long as it did.”
Thanks to advances in breast cancer treatment and increased access to early detection, we have seen a 42% overall decline in breast cancer mortality rates since 1989. Yet shockingly, a tragic disparity has grown between Black and white women. Black women in the U.S. are about 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women, and in some communities that disparity grows as high as 74%.

While Black women are diagnosed younger and with more aggressive forms of the disease, biology is only one part of the story. Black women are dying more than white women because the health care system has failed them — and continues to fail them — at every step in their breast cancer journey.

A 2021 Komen report, “Closing the Breast Cancer Gap: A Roadmap to Save the Lives of Black Women in America,” focused on systemic and social determinants of health in the 10 metropolitan areas that experience the largest gaps in mortality rates between Black and white women. According to the report, Black women are often ignored by their health care providers and face significant barriers to receiving the care they need due to a legacy of systemic racism, implicit bias and below-standard care.

In response, Komen launched Stand for H.E.R. — a Health Equity Revolution — a bold program to decrease breast cancer disparities through focused interventions. Stand for H.E.R. is Komen’s commitment to collaborating with Black communities, policymakers, researchers and other key stakeholders to help create a world without inequities and where Black people have the same chances of surviving breast cancer as anyone else.
Stand for **H.E.R.**

**a Health Equity Revolution**

Komen’s approach through Stand for H.E.R. includes the following tailored interventions:

**EDUCATION** that equips Black people with knowledge about breast health.

**PATIENT SUPPORT** that ensures connections to timely, high-quality care.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** that improves diversity and cultural sensitivity of health care workers.

**RESEARCH** that is representative and benefits all.

**ADVOCACY** for policies that promote health equity.

Since launching Stand for H.E.R., we have:

- Finalized a landmark report with detailed statistics about the lived experience of breast cancer in the Black community and recommendations for interventions to support health equity for the 10 metropolitan areas.
- Hired and trained six culturally competent Komen patient navigators to serve patients in the metropolitan areas.
- Developed and launched a first-of-its-kind training module on navigating racism and bias in the health care system for Black patients.
- Trained 73 Black individuals through Komen’s Navigation Nation, a web-based, self-paced patient navigation training program and professional development network.
- Served 968 Black patients living in the designated metropolitan areas through Komen’s Financial Assistance Program and 1,602 people who self-reported as Black through Komen’s Breast Care Helpline.
- Collaborated with seven breast oncology practices located in the designated metropolitan areas through a structured quality improvement program focusing on health equity.
- Developed and launched a program to provide screening and diagnostic services for Black patients living in the designated metropolitan areas.

“Black women are dying more than white women because all our systems have failed them, and continue to fail them, at every step in their breast cancer journey. The good news is there are solutions to elevate substandard care, the availability and affordability of diagnostics and follow-up care, address unfair public policies, insurance practices and implicit bias and racism she encounters daily. It will take all of us working together to create a health equity revolution, delivering the changes needed to save lives, and Stand for H.E.R.”

— Paula Schneider, Komen’s President and CEO

The Health Equity Revolution continues. Since the Stand for H.E.R. launch, Komen has successfully garnered full feature media stories in major news markets throughout the designated metropolitan areas, including Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and New York. Our messaging campaign in these cities will speak directly to Black patients and health care workers about Stand for H.E.R. services and resources and how to access them.
In coordination with Komen’s health equity initiatives, a need emerged to create state-based opportunities for local, system-wide changes to address breast cancer disparities in Black communities. In response, the Komen Center for Public Policy developed Speak Truth to Power: Stand Up, Speak Up, a training program with a standard, relevant and culturally responsive curriculum for state-level advocacy to:

- **CREATE** a diverse community of advocates to address breast cancer health disparities and inequities within the Black community.
- **STRENGTHEN AND EMPOWER** participants to impact public policy around breast cancer disparities.
- **INCREASE PARTICIPATION** in decision-making that affect access to health care and health care choices.

Komen chose to first focus our state-level advocacy efforts in California and Texas, two states that make up a significant portion of breast cancer diagnoses in the Black community. We assembled a cohort of leaders and influencers from the Black community to attend training in both states. This six-week training series provided a broad overview of health equity and social determinants of health, how policy has impacted health equity and how policies can be used to address the inequities.

**THE CALIFORNIA COHORT PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING SOLUTIONS:**
- Clinical Trials: Increase inclusion of Black patients in clinical trials.
- Diagnostic Imaging: Expand coverage for medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging services.
- Patient Navigation: Require providers to offer cancer patients access to a navigator and standardized navigation tools.
- Young People Education and Screening: Increase patient and provider education regarding breast cancer in younger Black patients.

**THE TEXAS COHORT PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING SOLUTIONS:**
- Access to Health Services: Increase funding and access for screening, treatment and required follow-up services.
- Educational Campaigns: Increase educational information on screening, necessary follow-up services and clinical trials in Black communities.
- Genetic Testing: Amend genetic testing guidelines to be inclusive of younger Black women.
- Reshaping Research: Increase funding for research on Black people and breast cancer, including funding opportunities for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Komen’s Center for Public Policy will pursue potential policy changes related to the recommendations from the cohorts in future state legislative sessions. In California, we collaborated on the introduction of legislation in February to expand access to diagnostic breast imaging. Based on positive feedback from our first two pilots, we plan to expand this program, focusing first on the locations that have the highest rates of late-stage diagnosis and mortality.
PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Sound government action is critical for making the broad, systemic and lasting changes we need to save lives and end breast cancer forever. The Susan G. Komen Center for Public Policy focuses on work that will:

- **Empower people with knowledge**
- **Connect advocates together**
- **Mobilize everyone to act for lasting change**

**OUR PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY PRIORITIES:**

- **Accelerating research**
- **Ensuring access to high-quality care**
- **Alleviating patient burden**

**FEDERAL POLICY**

The Center for Public Policy has secured more than $800 million in research for breast cancer and $200 million for breast cancer safety net programs. The past year has shown a sharp uptick in legislative success compared to 2020, with four Komen-led bills being signed into law and 15 pieces of legislation worked on within coalition. We supported more than 40 bills in the first session of the 117th Congress that will expand access and remove barriers for the breast cancer community.

This year’s Komen-endorsed policies that support our policy priorities include:

- Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD) Act (H.R.5769/S.1067): This Act would eliminate financial barriers that prevent people from accessing vitally important diagnostic imaging tests.
- Improving Social Determinants of Health Act (H.R.379/S.104): This Act addresses the social, economic and environmental factors that drive inequality and provides funding for programs to address these issues.

The Center for Public Policy also activated around budgetary efforts, including:

- **$6.56 billion** in funding for the National Cancer Institute, a $119 million increase.
- **$197 million** in continued support for the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.
- **$50 billion** for the advancement of cancer registries.
- **$150 million** in funding for the Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense.

**ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

On April 14, 2021, 250 trained advocates took to Capitol Hill virtually for our annual Advocacy Summit. With a new congress in session, this pivotal event brought together members of the breast cancer community from across the country for a day of action after two days of education and training.

Komen hosted nearly 200 virtual meetings with Congressional offices, informing legislators on the importance of supporting legislative change needed by those impacted by breast cancer. As part of the Summit, we called on our grassroots advocates and partners to join us for our Virtual Day of Action. Nearly 800 emails were sent to Congress asking them to make Komen’s priorities their priorities.
STATE ENGAGEMENT

Komen worked with state legislatures across the country in support of our policy priorities, with Komen-led legislation introduced in more than 15 states.

In the past year, we saw:

- **40%** increase in overall state engagement, with a presence in 35 states.
- **100%** increase in Komen-led legislation.
- **70%** increase in state wins.

STATE SUCCESSES

- **Ohio:** Expanded eligibility to Ohio's Breast & Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) Program, allowing eligible women access to treatment services regardless of whether they received their initial screening from a BCCP-contracted provider.
- **Arkansas:** Led the passage of legislation that eliminates patient out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic breast imaging, including diagnostic mammography, breast ultrasound and MRI.
- **Colorado:** Defeated a targeted effort to substantially cut funding for the Colorado Women’s Wellness Connection, the state’s breast and cervical cancer program.

Komen hosted 12 state advocacy forums in the fall of 2021 focused on building advocate capacity for the 2022 legislative session in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio. Each virtual event highlighted Komen’s advocacy work, the key priorities for the state and how issues impact providers and patients.

We have confirmation that diagnostic imaging legislation will be introduced in 11 states, and two states have plans to introduce metastatic step therapy legislation.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

The Center for Public Policy has active grassroots advocates in all 50 states, with a grassroots base of more than 105,000 Advocacy Insiders. Insiders sent nearly 25,000 emails this year to lawmakers in support of Komen-led policy initiatives.

We officially launched our Advocacy Ambassador Program this year, which includes 249 Ambassadors covering 38 states and 162 congressional districts. Ambassadors serve as key leaders within their defined districts by responding to requests for state and federal action and completing trainings to empower themselves and their communities to make a difference in the lives of those most impacted by breast cancer.
Komen unites and inspires communities to come together to create a greater impact in ending breast cancer. To meet the needs of our breast cancer community, we offered a host of events and opportunities this year to help people connect, share and learn from each other.

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Impact Series

The MBC Impact Series provides people living with MBC and their loved ones a safe, collaborative space to gather information related to MBC and discover practical resources to help make decisions for improved physical and emotional health. More than 1,200 people attended an MBC Impact Series event this year. Komen surveyed more than 350 people living with MBC and held discussions with key MBC advisors to gain insights on how to expand the MBC Impact Series to meet the diverse needs of the MBC community. Based on the results of the survey, Komen launched a dedicated MBC email newsletter, a series of “Ask your MBC Questions” webinars with Komen Scholars and a Wellness Wednesday video series.

Worship in Pink

Worship in Pink, a volunteer-driven breast health educational program powered by local faith-based organizations, launched nationwide in 2021 with a focus on hosting events within congregations that are primarily Black, Hispanic or Latino. By providing breast health knowledge and resources, Worship in Pink empowers congregations to take an active role in their members’ breast health and provides the opportunity to honor and celebrate the lives of those impacted by breast cancer. Sixty-five Worship in Pink Ambassadors participated in hosting a breast health educational event at their places of worship during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, with a reach of approximately 1,600 people.

Genetic Counseling and Testing

There are barriers that restrict access to genetic counseling and testing services in Black communities, such as lack of knowledge of testing services and implicit racial bias among physicians. Komen sought applications from health systems to increase access to and utilization of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer in Black communities, with the aim to address breast cancer inequities and improve breast health outcomes in Black individuals.

MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center will each receive $100,000 in the next year to provide genetic counseling to 600 Black families and genetic testing to 300 Black families. Komen chose these organizations based on their demonstrated ability to meet the vision and goals of this initiative.

New and existing genetic counseling and testing educational materials are being developed to meet the needs of Black individuals. Materials will focus on the importance of knowing your personal and family health history and understanding options for individuals at high risk of hereditary cancers, as well as questions to ask health care providers.

Community

“I was diagnosed with breast cancer that spread to my liver on my 46th birthday, a few months after my daughter turned 2. I am a single mother and relied on friends and one nearby family member for childcare before COVID, then just one family member afterwards. When that person was no longer able to assist, I was overwhelmed with trying to find and pay for childcare in order to continue my regular treatments. I work full-time, but my employer of nearly 15 years seriously reduced my salary after my second round of chemo, so paying basic bills had been challenging for some time. I learned about Komen at a Worship in Pink service at my church. I completed an online application for your financial assistance program and received approval that same day. I received the funds (which covered two months of Pre-K at the program I’d found) within a week and was able to enroll her and get her started in time for their first day of school without missing any medical appointments. The additional time to focus on care has been incredible, but the time I didn’t realize I needed to focus on self-care with things like exercise, rest and metastatic cancer support groups while my child is at school has also been invaluable. It has relieved a tremendous amount of stress, allowed my child the socialization and space she needs, and improved our quality of life. My child and I are both beyond grateful.”

-Michelle, living with MBC
As the mother of a 3-year-old, Ashley Fernandez thought the constant fatigue she experienced was a natural part of balancing her Air Force family’s busy life in Alaska. Then she felt a lump. When she asked her doctor for an ultrasound, she was told that at 31 years old and with no family history of breast cancer, she was too young to have the disease.

“I realized I needed to take my health into my own hands,” Ashley said. “I was in tune enough with my body to know something was off. It was such a devastating time because I knew something was wrong, but nobody would listen to me.”

Ashley persisted in scheduling an appointment for a mammogram, followed by a breast MRI. “The moment my life changed was April 13, 2018,” Ashley said. “I was standing in the Seattle Sky Tower with my mother and my daughter. We were having a girls’ trip. I got the phone call: ‘Ashley, you were right. You have breast cancer.’”

When Ashley returned to Alaska, she underwent a bone scan to determine the source of persistent hip pain. “I lit up like a Christmas tree,” Ashley said. “The cancer had spread to my bones.” Ashley was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer (MBC), the most advanced form of breast cancer. There is no cure. “I don’t think people understand the severity of MBC. It is a terminal diagnosis. It doesn’t go away. You’re always dealing with it,” Ashley said. “But I think we forget that although it’s incurable, it doesn’t mean our lives have to be like that. We can still hold onto that joy.”

Ashley draws strength from “sunshine, faith and family” and shares her story as an MBC advocate to educate and empower people to “advocate for themselves, to get better treatment and be knowledgeable” about the disease. “I want people to know that just because MBC patients look healthy doesn’t mean that behind the scenes we aren’t struggling.” Ashley said. “I want people to know that some people can’t get treatment because insurance costs too much. I want people to know that people lose their families because of this disease — because it just takes over.”

Ultimately, Ashley wants people to know: “MBC patients are worthy of the treatment. We’re worthy of the research.”
PATIENT CARE CENTER

The path to care is daunting and complex under the best of circumstances, but it is further complicated for underserved populations, particularly women of color, who experience significant barriers throughout the continuum of care. Komen is focused on ensuring all people receive the care they need through our Patient Care Center, which seeks to remove barriers and serve as a dedicated care partner, helpful guide and support resource throughout the breast health care journey.

The Patient Care Center supported nearly 26,000 people this year through a suite of integrated direct patient programs: the Breast Care Helpline, Screening & Diagnostics Program, Financial Assistance Program and Patient Navigation. Next year, we anticipate serving more than 37,000 people who need access to Komen’s services, a growth of 45% year over year. Our programs aim to:

• Maintain or increase quality of life.
• Remove barriers to care and ultimately achieve access to needed care.
• Help people access care faster or stay in the continuum of care.
• Achieve a high level of satisfaction with the services and support provided.

**Through the Komen Patient Care Center:**

- **15,917 people contacted Komen’s free Breast Care Helpline seeking support.**
- **2.4 million people visited Komen’s comprehensive “About Breast Cancer” section of komen.org.**
- **9,265 patients received financial assistance from Komen to help cover expenses of daily living, enabling them to focus on their care.**
- **948 patients received support from a patient navigator.**
- **2,952 people received a breast screening or diagnostic test.**

*Includes number of individuals served through legacy community health grants.*
Patient Navigation Training Program

Komen’s virtual patient navigation training program has trained 114 navigators to date, with 68 (60%) of those navigators representing the Black community. The program is designed to teach aspiring Black patient navigators, supporting their ability to enhance their career paths and achieve higher income potential.

Adapted from the George Washington University Cancer Institute’s oncology patient navigator training, Komen’s training program is enhanced with a first-of-its-kind module on navigating racism and bias for Black patients in the health care system.

We continue to expand, diversify and upskill the patient navigation workforce to better equipped to serve breast cancer patients, especially those that experience racism and bias.

“This program is revolutionary because you have to know our history to know where we’ve come from, and to know our fears and experiences with the healthcare system.” — Jade Gibson, Komen patient navigator

“Patient navigation gives me the opportunity to help people diagnosed with breast cancer to find peace within, knowing that someone is in the background working diligently to assist them in eliminating their unmet needs. This work is important to me because I provide a service that allows my patients to focus on their treatment. Knowing that I was able to produce clarity and resolution in the face of adversity brings me fulfillment.”

Roselyn White, Komen patient navigator

“My patient navigator helped me from the very beginning during a time of great suffering and trauma. She was calm and empathetic and so very patient with me as I explained and asked many questions. She sent me email resources and spoke hope into the situation. I was glad to have someone besides my closest friends and family to talk with. She was safe, and most of all, knowledgeable. She was one of God’s cheerleaders during one of the worst times of my life. Just the sound of her voice would calm me down, and I knew I’d be smiling at the end of the call. She was the only person connected to a cancer organization that I would talk to. I’m so very thankful for the investment of care she has given me.”

Sandra R., 61, breast cancer patient

PATIENT CARE SERVICES: PATIENT NAVIGATION

Komen hired 12 on-staff patient navigators to help breast cancer patients navigate the health care system and overcome barriers during cancer treatments. Patients can be connected to a navigator by calling Komen’s Breast Care Helpline.
Experiential Fundraising

As the COVID-19 pandemic altered many aspects of the way we engage with our supporters, we created digital, hybrid and small-group experiences that mobilized people to support our mission at home. By launching creative new ways to unite the breast cancer community, we redefined what it means to interact with the movement to end breast cancer and generate mission-fueling revenue. When live events made their triumphant return in 2021, we had much to celebrate.

SUSAN G. KOMEN 3-DAY

Over the past 19 years and 179 events, the Susan G. Komen 3-Day has raised more than $875 million. This 60-mile walk takes place over three consecutive days, educating tens of thousands of people about breast health and raising funds to help support breast cancer advocacy, research, patient support and care.

After the 3-Day community spent more than a year apart due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Komen 3-Day returned in 2021 in San Diego for the year’s only in-person 3-Day walk. The flagship event of the series drew more than 2,300 walkers and raised a total of $5.9 million. Members of Komen’s Executive Leadership Team walked in the San Diego 3-Day, including President and CEO Paula Schneider.

3-DAY NATION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Komen launched 3-Day Nation as a way to expand and strengthen the 3-Day “Pink Bubble” in local communities across the country, offering a more accessible way for supporters to participate at home with their friends and family. 3-Day Nation kicked off during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, with 1,315 men and women representing all 50 states participating in two weeks of walking challenges and raising $1.3 million.

“If I could only share one thing with the 3-Day family it would be don’t give up! Keep on fighting, fundraising and spreading the Pink Bubble love. The past few years have been tough on everyone for different reasons. We all learned things and took the time to grow in personal ways. But overall as a society, I think we discovered we could all use a little work! So don’t give up and keep on fighting, for yourself, your mission and anything and everything that brings you joy! You all bring me joy and I am so thankful.” — Emily Wolfe, diagnosed at 29
Race for the Cure® | MORE THAN PINK Walk®

The Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk are our signature community-based fundraising events designed to raise significant funds and awareness for the breast cancer movement, celebrate survivorship and honor those we’ve lost to the disease. We returned to hosting live events this year, with more than 20 in-person events held across 18 states. More than 45,000 people participated in an in-person race or walk, fundraising more than $6.4 million.

With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, Komen also launched a nationwide, virtual MORE THAN PINK Walk Where You Are program to allow supporters to participate in a walk in their home cities. In its inaugural year, the MORE THAN PINK Walk Where You Are raised $575,000, with 5,000 participants across all 50 U.S. states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; Austria; Brazil; Canada; Germany; Mexico; Singapore; and the United Kingdom.

When combining the impact of our in-person and virtual events, the Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk programs raised more than $14 million this year, with 6,500 teams and 71,000 registered participants.

NATIONAL CORPORATE TEAMS

To help businesses engage their employees in fundraising, Komen launched a new National Corporate Teams program in support of Race for the Cure and the MORE THAN PINK Walk. Fourteen National Corporate Teams participated in our inaugural year, with more than 4,400 participants raising nearly $1 million over 42 events. Seven national teams raised more than $50,000 each: Bank of America, CenterPoint Energy, Global Payments, PepsiCo, Salesforce, Team Komen and Walgreens.

“Susan G. Komen’s National Team program provided us the opportunity to support breast cancer awareness as a total PepsiCo team on one platform like never before. Not only were we able to surpass our individual fundraising goal, but we were also able to enhance overall education and engagement for the cause internally thanks to the robust resources provided as being part of the team! The Komen group truly went above and beyond to set our team up for success and did a fabulous job asking for and acting on feedback as we worked together in the National Team space for the first time.” — PepsiCo, top fundraising National Team

INFLUENCER FUNDRAISING

BigWigs and Pink Tie Guys, Komen’s influencer-based fundraising programs, returned this year in 13 states, engaging high-profile business and community leaders who agreed to raise a minimum of $5,000 by leveraging their personal and professional networks. For the second year in a row, Texas staged a statewide challenge for their Pink Tie Guys, raising more than $221,000 in just 24 hours.
Volunteers are our lifeblood. We continue to offer new, innovative ways for our volunteers to share the gift of their time, talents and passion for our mission. We thank our:

- **Fundraising Champions:** who help raise critical funds that drive research breakthroughs.
- **Mission Mobilizers:** who take a hands-on role in delivering our mission through opportunities like becoming an Advocacy Ambassador to protect funding and change laws.
- **Leadership Influencers:** who join a community or regional Komen Leadership Council or become an Event Chair.
- **Event Superheroes:** who serve on our core planning teams and as crew members for our 3-Day.
- **Experience Volunteers:** who share skills for hands-on operational roles throughout the year.

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"This year, I worked with my financial advisor, Carrie Hall, who helped me donate stock to help fund Susan G. Komen's critical strategies to combat breast cancer. I was able to deduct the full amount of that stock donation on this year’s tax return. It’s a smart way to have a big impact, and Komen.org has a secure online tool that makes giving stock simple and easy." – Michelle Bottomley, Komen Board member
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**NEW WAYS TO GIVE**

**Cryptocurrency:** We accepted our first donations through cryptocurrency this year. Donating cryptocurrency is a non-taxable event, meaning donors do not owe capital gains tax on the appreciated amount and can deduct it on taxes. This makes Ethereum, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency donations one of the most tax-efficient ways to support our mission.

**Stock Gifts:** Donating appreciated stocks or mutual funds sees a combined tax savings of up to 70% on gifts and continues to be a tangible way to support Komen. Donating appreciated assets avoids federal capital gains taxes and provides a federal income tax deduction for the current market value of the gift. Similar state tax benefits are also provided in most of the U.S.

**Bequests:** This year, Komen partnered with FreeWill to offer donors a free online tool to add Komen to existing or new wills. A gift in a will or living trust ensures future funding for critical breast cancer research and care is provided.
Komen partners share our vision for a world without breast cancer and are eager to help, whether they’re inspiring customers to give, engaging employees or supporting our work. They stand by our side, making our mission a part of theirs.

AMGEN: Since 2018, Amgen and Komen have partnered together to educate hundreds of thousands of individuals living with breast cancer and their caretakers about the connection between breast and bone health to better understand their risks and the steps to take to maintain strong bones for life, particularly for those living with metastatic breast cancer.

BANK OF AMERICA: A proud partner since 2009, Bank of America serves as the National Presenting sponsor of the Komen 3-Day, Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk events, engaging their employees and customers in support of the breast cancer community by participating and volunteering at events across the U.S. Additionally, Bank of America also helps support Komen through its Pink Ribbon Banking Affinity products, which have raised more than $11.8 million to date.

ELI LILLY & COMPANY: Eli Lilly & Company and Komen established a partnership to develop new resources and expand existing resources that provide direct support to Black women facing breast cancer through Komen’s patient navigation program. Lilly is committed to addressing systemic inequities that too often have devastating effects on the lives of Black women and their families.

WALGREENS: Walgreens believes everyone should have access to high-quality cancer care and continues to demonstrate its commitment to the breast cancer community, raising more than $14 million for Komen through in-store fundraising since 2019. With this support, Komen is advancing new research in metastatic breast cancer and helping people overcome barriers to timely, high-quality care.

ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS LP: AstraZeneca is committed to making a meaningful impact for breast cancer patients, their caregivers and loved ones. The long-standing partnership helps address health disparities by supporting access to care and education about breast health for all people.

AVIS BUDGET GROUP: Avis Budget Group has been a partner with Komen since 2018. The corporation strives to be a strong leader and impact the communities where their employees and customers live, work and play. Through this partnership, Avis and Budget customers are able to help put a brake on breast cancer and raise critical funds to help save lives and serve the breast cancer community.

JOANN: JOANN has supported the breast cancer community by donating and volunteering with Komen since 2018. In 2021, JOANN made the commitment to increase their resolve to find cures for breast cancer and implemented a groundbreaking in-store customer donation, raising more than $800,000. With the support of its Team Members and customers, JOANN’s investment in Komen and the breast cancer community is helping all people have access to high-quality care.

MOHAWK: Mohawk’s support of Komen is on behalf of the company’s community of employees, architects, designers and specialty retailers, many of whom have been impacted by breast cancer. Since 2001, Mohawk has served as the Official Flooring Sponsor of the Komen 3-Day, supporting walkers with in-kind donations that encourage them on their 60-mile journey. Additionally, products available through Mohawk’s residential Decorate for the Cure and commercial Specify for a Cure programs support Komen.

NATURA BISSÉ AND THE RICARDO FISAS NATURA BISSE FOUNDATION: Natura Bissé and The Ricardo Fisas Natura Bissé Foundation are working together with Komen to ensure the skin care needs of cancer survivors and those living with the disease are understood and met in a compassionate and supportive environment. The partnership provides education, training and resources to those undergoing oncology treatments, as well as providers, caregivers and aestheticians.

WACOAL AMERICA: Wacoal America and Komen celebrated 21 years of our Fit for the Cure program in 2021. Since the partnership began, Wacoal has donated more than $6 million to Komen and has conducted nearly 1 million bra fittings. Wacoal’s donations through Fit for the Cure and other initiatives support Komen’s direct patient support services, including the free Breast Care Helpline and Financial Assistance Program.
Thank you for saving lives

SUSAN G. KOMEN IMPACT REPORT | 2022

5th Wheel Records
Allied Van Lines
AmazonSmile
American Queen Voyages
Amgen
Anna Beck Jewelry
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP
Avis Budget Group
Avocados from Mexico
Bank of America
BAPS Charities
Bayer
BJ’s Wholesale Club
Bowl for the Cure
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc. (CARS)
CertainTeed
Cigna Foundation
Costco Warehouse
COVERGIRL
Cure Strategic Alliance
Deluxe Corporation
DLA Piper
Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.
Echelon
ecoATM
Eisai
Eli Lilly & Company
Eurobloom
Exact Sciences Corporation
Farouk
FITCRUNCH
Ford Motor Company
Foundation Medicine, Inc.
Fund II Foundation
GE Healthcare
Genentech, Inc.
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Greensource
Hallmark
Hint
Jackson Lewis
Janssen | Johnson & Johnson
JOANN
Kent International
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Major League Baseball
McDermott, Will & Emery
Merck
Mielle Organics
Mohawk
Natura Bissé
Neogenomics Laboratories
ONEHOPE Foundation
Panera
Pfizer
Roland Electronics
Sally Hansen
Sanofi
Seagen
Simon Property Group
Simplify Asset Management
Talbots
Telemundo
Topgolf
Wacoal America
Walgreens
XPO Logistics

Komen Leadership

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Lydia The, Partner, McKinsey

Komen Executive Leadership Team

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Eunice Nakamura, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Catherine Olivieri, SVP, Human Resources
Victoria Wołodzko Smart, SVP, Mission
Ria Williams, Chief Financial Officer
Komen Leadership

Komen Leadership Council

Komen created a series of local and regional Komen Leadership Councils (KLC) as part of our transition from a federated organization to a single, united entity. The councils, which are comprised of former Affiliate Board Members and other local community leaders, are vital for our continued growth and ability to stay connected to local community needs. In addition to providing their perspectives as leaders in their communities, KLC members serve as local brand ambassadors and are key to our local fundraising and engagement efforts.

FEATURED KLC MEMBER:
Deborah Hausman

Deborah Hausman has been a driving force within Komen for more than a decade. Her grandmother and mother’s breast cancer diagnoses inspired her to start walking in the Komen 3-Day and ultimately to become involved in running events in a volunteer capacity. She chaired the Orlando MORE THAN PINK Walk in 2020 and 2021, keeping the central Florida breast cancer community engaged during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She joined the Florida Komen Leadership Council as a founding member in 2020 and has continued to serve her local community throughout her own breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

“I had no idea what an impact I could make by just being there as a volunteer and advocating for our breast cancer community. I think the greatest gift to give is our time—something that breast cancer takes from so many,” Deborah said. “Volunteering provided me with an education and knowledge about breast cancer in general. Recently, when I experienced the disease firsthand, that knowledge removed all my anxiety and helped me through my surgery.”

Susan G. Komen Public Policy Board 2020-2022

Jennifer Nelson Carney
Shonta Chambers
Lisa Chan-Sawin
Alpha Lillstrom Cheng
*Tori Geib; MBC Patient Advocate
Mary Grealy
LaTasha Lee
David Lofye
Kathryn Schubert

*Tori Geib passed away on Nov. 1, 2021, after living with metastatic breast cancer for nearly five years. The Policy Board continues its work in her memory.

3-Day Advisory Council

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Emily Mason
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Susan Norling
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Carolyn Parks
Elle Peji-DeVol
Joel Robinette
Jennifer Rosado
Komen Leadership

Susan G. Komen’s Scientific Advisors

Komen’s Scientific Advisors include our Scientific Advisory Board and Komen Scholars — the best and brightest researchers, clinicians, advocates and experts who guide and help implement our mission programs. Thanks to their efforts, we’re driving discovery, affecting change and accelerating progress in the fight against breast cancer.

Advocates in Science

Komen brings the unique and valuable perspectives of breast cancer patients, survivors and co-survivors into our research programs to ignite a sense of urgency and ensure patient impact. Our Advocates in Science (AIS) Program invites experienced, knowledgeable and effective breast cancer advocates to participate in all aspects of the research process.

Scientific Advisory Board

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Alana L. Welm, Ph.D.
Our entire organization and the breast cancer community thank you for the impact you made this year.

Komen knows that connecting with an organization’s mission is just the start. We value each of our Board members, partners, supporters and volunteers who fuel our mission to end breast cancer.