



LITTLE ROCK, ARK. (March 29, 2018) – Today the Arkansas Affiliate of Susan G. Komen distributed 19 grants to Arkansas organizations.

This year marks the 24th year for the Komen organization to award grants to programs around the state who are working in the fight against breast cancer. These funds are predominantly raised through the Little Rock Race for the Cure® chaired in 2017 by Kim Cook, the 2017 Runway for the Cure® chaired by Ashlee Stephens, the 2017 Northeast Arkansas Race for the Cure chaired by Candace Cooper and the 2017 Texarkana Race for the Cure chaired by Morgan Jerry and Brittanie Stone. Announced were the 2018 Little Rock Race for the Cure® Chair Barbara Harpool (to be held November 3rd), 2018 Runway for a Cure® Chair Donna Osborne (to be held on October 4th), the 2018 Northeast Race for the Cure® Chairs, Candace Cooper and Julie Isaacson (to be held April 28th) and the 2018 Texarkana Race for the Cure® chair, Pam Beck (to be held October 20th).

A total of \$1,046,198 was awarded. This includes \$323,000 of the funds raised in Arkansas that will go directly into Komen National Research grants to find a cure for breast cancer.

“We are always proud of the opportunity to help the women in our state with grant funds,” said Arkansas Mission Director Karolyn Taylor. “Our grants are a direct result of the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. The recipients of these funds were chosen because their innovative, evidence-based projects aligned with one or more target priorities identified in the 2015 Komen Arkansas Community Profile. We want to understand the breast cancer needs of every community we serve. Every four years, the Arkansas Affiliate examines the impact of breast cancer within our service area by conducting an assessment, the Community Profile Report, which ensures that our efforts (community outreach, collaborations, grants and public policy work) address the greatest needs in each community. The full 2015 Community Profile can be found on our website at [www.komenarkansas.org](http://www.komenarkansas.org)”

This year the largest grant awarded was \$81,199 and the smallest awarded was \$3000. The Komen Arkansas Affiliate first awarded grants totaling \$78,700 in 1994. With this year’s grants the total given in our communities over the 24 years is \$17.37 million. The amount given for research now totals \$6 million.

“We were so pleased to have a direct impact on the women and men of Arkansas fighting breast cancer,” says Komen Arkansas Board Chair Jerry Cohen. “We are also pleased to contribute our efforts to achieving our aggressive new goal which is to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths in the U. S. by 50 percent by the year 2026. We are focused on the number of deaths; more than 40,000 each year. We are part of a movement dedicated to shifting focus from awareness to action – to redefining our pink ribbon in a way that unites and empowers us so that together, we will end breast cancer.

The Affiliate awarded its highest honor, the Hickingbotham Award for service Alesa Garner. Alesa has been a survivor since her own breast cancer diagnosis in 1998. Her diagnosis led her to a career change from the clinical laboratory to coordinating a cancer program, New Outlook at CHI St. Vincent. Her passion to serve cancer survivors grew the outreach of New Outlook to serve people in every county of Arkansas. Alesa has created a network of 25 providers that span the state where breast cancer survivors can receive mastectomy garments and lymphedema treatment closer to their own communities. Alesa has maintained connection to cancer support groups that range throughout Arkansas to navigate survivors and caregivers to psychosocial support during and after diagnosis. Alesa has helped communities form new support groups and has personally provided educational programs for these groups. Alesa was a breast cancer navigator before there was a formalized certification and that is why she became a certified clinical breast cancer navigator in 2015. Since its inception in 1999, Alesa has served nearly 11,800 with cancer. In 2005 Alesa was the only representative from

Arkansas to the Initial Lance Armstrong Foundation survivor conference in Washington, DC whose task it was to create a national document concerning barriers for those diagnosed with cancer for proper treatment and access to care. Alesa received the Komen for the Cure National Volunteer of the Year in 2016.

The Hickingbotham Award is named in honor of businessman Frank Hickingbotham and his family who were founding s founding sponsors of the Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure. The Promise of One Award, established in 2007 by Susan G. Komen national, is awarded to local individuals each year in recognition of their exceptional volunteer contribution. This final year’s recipients were volunteers Barbara Harpool, Suzanne Guymon, Susie Haynes and Joy Cutchen.

Grants awarded this year are:

- \$81,199 to Arkansas Rural Health Partnership formerly known as Greater Delta Alliance for Health in Lake Village/Pine Bluff for its “Access Project Pink/Reach Every Women” program
- \$22,100 to St. Bernards in Jonesboro for its “Bringing Screening Services and Breast Health Education to Your Community” program
- \$17,660 Baxter Regional Hospital Foundation in Mountain Home for its “Mobile Mammography Unit” program
- \$70,905 to St. Bernards in Jonesboro for its “Breast Assured XII” program
- \$12,640 to Baxter Regional Hospital Foundation in Mountain Home for its “Breast Imaging Center Screening and Diagnosis”
- \$51,877 to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock for its “Eliminating Barriers to Early Detection: Mobile Mammography” program
- \$26,280 to CARTI in Little Rock for its “Access to Treatment-Overcoming Barriers” program
- \$58,000 to TOPPS, Inc. in Pine Bluff for The B.E.A.T Program (Breast Health, Education, Access, and Treatment Program)
- \$40,549 to St. Vincent Breast Center in Little Rock for its “Reducing Barriers from Screening to Diagnosis.
- \$36,977 to White River Health System, Inc. in Batesville for its “The Get Your Mammogram “GYM” Project
- \$28,164 to Unity Health Medical Foundation in Searcy for its “Screening, Diagnosis, and Intervention” program
- \$3,000 to Little River Memorial Hospital in Ashdown for its “Mammography Today” program
- \$13,064 to Baptist Health Foundation in Little Rock for its “Early Detection Program”
- \$78,968 to NEA Baptist Hospital in Jonesboro for its “Breast Health Program”
- \$35,160 to Mississippi County Arkansas Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc. in Blytheville for its Breast Education and Outreach Program
- \$10,239 to Baptist Health Foundation in Little Rock for its “Genetic Screening Program”
- \$5,000 to Genesis Primecare in Texarkana, TX for its “Breast Cancer Screening Program”
- \$80,431 to Christus St Michael Foundation in Texarkana, TX for its “Breast and Cervical Care Outreach Program”
- \$50,985 to Wadley Regional Medical Center Auxiliary in Texarkana, AR for its “Access and Awareness Program”

*Komen for the Cure was established as the Komen Foundation in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died from breast cancer at the age of 36. Thanks to more than 75,000 volunteers dedicated to the fight against breast cancer, Komen for the Cure with its Affiliate Network is the world’s largest private funder of community-based breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment programs. Together with its Affiliate Network, corporate partners and donors, Komen for the Cure has raised over one billion dollars for the fight against breast cancer.*

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