



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Susan G Komen Michigan Awards Grant for Breast Cancer Count Me In Program to Catherine's Health Center**

#### **Local Organization Recognized With Support From National Program**

**(Grand Rapids, Michigan / April 8, 2018)** – Komen Michigan has awarded a \$22,945 grant to Catherine's Health Center (CHC) for women's breast health education and services. At Catherine's Health Center, the grant from Komen will support COUNT ME IN, an initiative to reach women who may be underserved due to low income, knowledge deficits, or ethnic and social barriers. The project will help women make and keep appointments for free or low-cost breast cancer screening and follow up care; providing clinical breast exams, navigation, and case management to access care that meets their needs and assure appropriate follow-up in a timely manner.

"Many women in our community do not realize how prevalent breast cancer is, how early it can be detected, and the many treatment options available if detected early," said Karen Kaashoek, Executive Director of CHC. "Low-income, uninsured and underinsured women are at particular risk of neglecting preventive health issues such as breast cancer screening due to lack of access. Many at-risk women do not realize there are services for them. Catherine's Health Center provides these services and we are working with success to reach these women."

Komen Michigan is one of more than eighty national Affiliates of the world's largest breast cancer organization, working in communities across the U.S. to meet the most critical needs. To help achieve Komen's [goal to reduce current breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S.](#) by 2026, Komen Affiliates fund innovative breast health projects that provide vitally needed breast cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment services and support, including patient navigation, education, medical supplies and financial assistance.

"We conducted a needs assessment of our community and discovered that there was a need for greater breast health education and access to services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured women," said Sarah Hockin, Mission Director. "We are confident that

through COUNT ME IN, these at-risk women will have low-cost access to the care and education that they need.”

For more information on COUNT ME IN at Catherine’s Health Center, please call Karen at (616) 336-8800 x205. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), or the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-CANCER or [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov).

To learn more about Susan G. Komen Michigan; if you are in need of local resources or financial assistance, call (616) 752-8262 or visit [komenmichigan.org](http://komenmichigan.org). You can also call 1-877- GO KOMEN, a free breast care helpline, or email [helpline@komen.org](mailto:helpline@komen.org) to receive professional support services for anyone with breast health and breast cancer concerns, including breast cancer patients and their families.

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### **About Catherine’s Health Center**

Located in northeast Grand Rapids, Michigan, [Catherine’s Health Center](http://Catherine's Health Center) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have been providing high quality, affordable and compassionate health education, screening and treatment to underserved, at-risk residents of the area for more than 20 years. Functioning as a primary care practice, we offer referrals and many additional programs and services for health promotion and disease prevention. Catherine’s Health Center achieved Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike status in 2017. Visit us at [Catherineshc.org](http://Catherineshc.org)

### **About Komen Michigan**

Komen Michigan is committed to saving lives and reducing breast cancer mortality in Michigan. Through targeted, culturally-relevant education programs, screenings, diagnostics, transportation, survivor support programs and events like Race for the Cure®, Komen Michigan has touched more than 85,000 lives in Michigan in 2016 alone. Over the last 20 years, Komen Michigan has funded \$12 million in community breast health programs across 24 counties, filling the gap for much-needed services across the region. For more information, call (616) 752-8262 or visit [www.komenmichigan.org](http://www.komenmichigan.org).

### **About Susan G. Komen**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Komen has set a Bold Goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. by 2026. Komen was founded in 1982 by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. For more information, call (616) 752-8262 or visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).