



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CATHERINE'S HEALTH CENTER WILL PROVIDE 900 AT-RISK WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER EDUCATION & SERVICES THANKS TO \$22,777 IN FUNDING FROM SUSAN G. KOMEN MICHIGAN**

**(Grand Rapids, Michigan– June 18, 2019)** – Susan G. Komen® Michigan has awarded a \$22,777 grant to Catherine's Health Center 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 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.

Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer in women in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, 9,310 new cases of breast cancer will be detected in Michigan this year and 1,410 lives will be lost. While advances have been made in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure, early detection still affords the best opportunity for successful treatment. Programs such as *Count Me In* help ensure that all women have access to early detection information and options, even poor and medically underserved women.

Since 2006, the *Count Me In* program at Catherine's Health Center has reached more than 11,200 women with information about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and has referred more than 3,640 women for mammograms and clinical breast exams.

"We are proud that Komen shares our mission and has chosen to support our program. With these funds we will be able to help low income, un-, and under-insured women access breast health education and services they need for early detection and treatment of breast cancer," said Karen Kaashoek RN, MBA, Executive Director of Catherine's Health Center.

Komen Michigan is one of more than seventy local 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.

"All grant applications were reviewed by an independent panel comprised of 10 people representing 9 counties in our service area. The committee was directed by a third party moderator, and all applications were reviewed objectively, based on their merits," said Sarah Hockin, Mission Director at Komen Michigan. "We are confident that through Count Me In, many at-risk women will have low-cost access to the care and education they need."

### **About Catherine's Health Center**

Located in northeast Grand Rapids, Michigan, [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 Susan G. Komen and Komen Michigan**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit outside of the U.S. government 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. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$988 million in research and provided more than \$2.2 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs. Komen has worked in more than 60 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Komen Michigan is working to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in the local community. Komen Michigan has invested more than \$12 million in community breast health programs in 24 counties across the State of Michigan and has helped contribute to the more than \$988 million invested globally in research. For more information, call 616-752-8262 or visit [komenmichigan.org](http://komenmichigan.org).