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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 10, 2009**

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## **Rural, under-insured women, Native Americans and breast cancer patients benefit from South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grant Program**

Parker, SD – Native Americans, rural, under-insured women and men, and breast cancer patients in remote locations will benefit directly from this year's South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G Komen for the Cure grant program.

The South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, one of more than 125 Affiliates nationwide dedicated to putting an end to breast cancer, recently provided community grants totaling \$197,560 to support South Dakota area breast cancer screening and treatment programs.

"In 2009, due to the tremendous support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen South Dakota Race for the Cure®, we are able to provide nearly \$200,000 to touch the lives of thousands of South Dakotans who have been or will be affected by breast cancer," said Virginia Wishard Lambert, executive director of the South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G. Komen. "To ensure our funds are making the greatest impact, the Komen South Dakota Affiliate works with local medical experts and community leaders to conduct comprehensive community needs assessments. We have identified specific, unmet breast health needs within our state and 'filled in the gaps,' delivering the life-saving message of early detection, and providing assistance to medically underserved breast cancer patients and their families."

The South Dakota agencies receiving 2009 grants are:

- All Women Count/Women's Cancer Network, Pierre, SD to provide mammograms for under-insured women.
- The Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc, Yankton, SD for breast screening services to clients.
- Avera Cancer Institute, Sioux Falls, SD to fund a 12 week survivorship program for focused on holistic rehabilitation.
- Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board, Aberdeen, SD, to provide breast health education, screenings and pink shawls for breast cancer survivors in six tribal communities in South Dakota.
- Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Cancer Center, Yankton, SD to educate survivors and primary care providers about long-term impacts of the disease and recurrence.
- Avera St. Benedict Health Center, Parkston, SD for breast health awareness, education and screenings for rural women.
- Faulkton Area Medical Center, Faulkton, SD to provide education and screening services to Hutterite communities.
- John Vucurevich Regional Cancer Care Institute, Rapid City, SD to increase access to women needing breast cancer treatment in remote locations outside of Pennington County.
- Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons, Sioux Falls, SD to empower Girl Scout members and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices concerning breast health.
- Sanford Breast Health Institute, Sioux Falls, SD to create a comprehensive support program for breast cancer patients and their families.
- Therapeutic Healing Institute, Sioux Falls, SD to provide complementary therapy for breast cancer patients.

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Up to 75 percent of funds raised by the Komen Affiliate remain in the state to fund local breast health education, and breast cancer screening and treatment programs. Remaining net income (a minimum of 25 percent) supports the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation Award and Research Grant Program, which funds groundbreaking breast cancer research, meritorious awards and educational and scientific programs around the world.

The Komen Foundation was established 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. Together, with its Affiliates led by more than 100,000 survivors and activists, Komen is the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting to end breast cancer forever. As the face and voice of the global breast cancer movement, corporate partners and generous donors, the Komen Foundation has raised nearly one billion dollars in 25 years for the fight against breast cancer.

The South Dakota Affiliate will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Race for the Cure on September 27, 2009 in Vermillion, SD. Funds raised through this event are used to support programs like those listed above. For more information about grant opportunities or the South Dakota Race for the Cure visit [www.komensouthdakota.com](http://www.komensouthdakota.com) or call 605.297.9102.