



Acadiana Affiliate  
P. O. Box 51597, Lafayette, LA 70505  
337-993-5745, Helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN  
www.komenacadiana.org

May 14, 2010

Dear Acadiana Resident,

Thank you for reaching out to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to obtain the facts regarding grants made to Planned Parenthood for breast health services. Our promise is to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality of care for all and energizing science to find the cures.

Every day, countless family members, friends and co-workers are affected by, battle with, or are lost to breast cancer. **According to SEER rankings issued by the National Cancer Institute last summer, Louisiana has the fourth highest breast cancer mortality rate in the country.** That is why the Acadiana Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, like all the 125 Komen Affiliates, is committed to our promise to end breast cancer forever. Because all women are at risk for breast cancer, our grassroots events pull people from all walks of life, backgrounds and ages together for the common goal of finding a cure for breast cancer unlike any other event in this community.

Since launching the breast cancer movement 25 years ago, Komen for the Cure has transformed the culture – bringing breast cancer out of the closet – changing how the world talks about and treats this devastating disease. During the journey, it was often controversial and considered inappropriate to discuss diseases of the breast openly. We have come a long way, but face new challenges. Many underserved women find breast cancer at a later and more aggressive stage and have a higher mortality rate. To end breast cancer forever, we must reach out and provide education, screening and treatment programs beyond traditional realms – to save lives and have a real impact on underserved and uninsured populations touched by breast cancer.

**Here are the facts:** This year, the Acadiana Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Acadiana Affiliate is truly special because it is almost completely run by volunteers, many who have full time careers and families, but recognize the importance of the promise to find a cure for breast cancer. Working tirelessly, the Acadiana Affiliate has raised and invested more than **\$1 million** in our own community reaching 6 parishes.

In 2010, the Race for the Cure in Acadiana saw an increase in race participants – from 9,445 participants in 2009 to 10,063 in 2010. Moreover, 75 percent of the funds raised locally stay local. Local grants are restricted to education, screening and treatment. **The Acadiana Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not and has never provided funds to Planned Parenthood for breast health services. No Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure in Louisiana has provided grants to Planned Parenthood.**

**Komen headquarters has never awarded grants to Planned Parenthood.** Komen Affiliates **do not** provide any funding for abortions or for any activities outside the scope of our mission or our promise to end breast cancer forever. In some communities, Planned Parenthood may be the only source of free or low-cost women's health screening services (e.g., pap smears, mammograms, clinical breast exams, etc.). A small number of Komen Affiliates provide restricted grants to local Planned Parenthood clinics that offer vital breast health services for underserved women. These services often provide otherwise unavailable breast screening for women ages 40 and older.

**Komen and its Affiliates do not provide any funding for abortions or for any activities outside the scope of our promise to end breast cancer.**

Three simple steps to early detection are regular mammograms, clinical exams and breast self-exams.



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**Grants Awarded by the Komen Organization:** All Komen Affiliates have a rigorous and thorough granting process that is in keeping with the high standards set by Komen headquarters. All community grants are restricted and closely monitored to provide vital breast health education, screening and treatment services for underserved women. Komen Affiliates conduct community needs assessments to identify gaps in breast health and breast cancer services.

All Komen Affiliate grant applications are solicited through an open request for proposals and are reviewed by a Grants Committee comprised of local physicians, community health professionals, and breast health advocates. Any not-for-profit organization may apply for a Komen grant. The Grants Committee makes recommendation to the Affiliate's board of directors. The grant recipients are required to follow strict outcome and financial reporting guidelines at least bi-annually. Therefore, Komen does control how its grantees designate every dollar.

**Grants in Acadiana:** A listing of funded grantees by the Acadiana Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure since our inception includes:

- Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic
- Miles Perret Cancer Services
- Acadiana Medical Research Foundation
- Acadia Council on Aging
- Faith House
- Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center
- United Community Health Center
- Southwest LA Primary Health Education Center
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Tikkun Network
- Breast Health Symposium
- Opelousas General Health System
- Sallie Astor Burdine Foundation
- Iberia Medical Center Foundation
- Lydia Cancer Association

**In 2010,** we granted **\$364,000** to the following local organizations:

- Miles Perret Cancer Services
- Opelousas General Health System
- Acadia Council on Aging
- Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic
- Acadiana Medical Research Foundation
- Faith House
- Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Care Clinic
- Sallie Astor Burdine Foundation
- Southwest LA Primary Health Care Center, Inc.
- Iberia Medical Center Foundation
- Lydia Cancer Association

Our long-term partnerships with some of our grantees have saved countless women in our community.

The Acadiana Affiliate has also invested more than **\$443,000** in national ground-breaking research and awards. Twenty-five percent of all dollars raised by our Affiliates is sent to our national office to be used exclusively for breast cancer research grants. Second to the government, Komen is the largest provider of research grants in the United States. Komen has not funded any grants involving human embryonic stem cell tissue, but has funded grants involving adult stem cells.

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More than two million breast cancer survivors are living in the United States today. Nothing speaks more clearly to the progress Komen has made against breast cancer than this number. Because 10 million women worldwide could die from breast cancer in the next 25 years, Komen for the Cure is fighting every minute of every day to save every life – that is our passion.

We are grateful to the residents of Acadiana for their long-term support. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions that may arise, and we look forward to being able to move forward with our promise to end breast cancer forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lettie B. Veillon".

***Our vision: a world without breast cancer.***

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