

KOMEN MISSOURI AND YOU

THE 2018 — 2019 IMPACT REPORT



THANK YOU

Because of the generosity and commitment of donors like you, Komen Missouri has been expanding access to breast cancer care since 1999. Your support has allowed us to award more than \$40 million in community grants to local organizations throughout our 38-county service area to deliver life-saving breast health services to those who may otherwise be denied due to low income, lack of insurance coverage and other barriers.

This report is our way of saying **thank you** for believing in Komen Missouri and investing in our lifesaving work.

BREAST CANCER IS **UNACCEPTABLE**

While we've made great strides in reducing breast cancer deaths over the years, still more than 41,000 women and men die every year from breast cancer in the U.S.. In our Missouri/Illinois service area, breast cancer accounts for one-third of all cancers diagnosed, with approximately 4,775 cases per year.

In Komen Missouri's 38-county service area:

- **7 women are diagnosed** with breast cancer **EVERY DAY**
- **10 women lose their lives** to breast cancer **EVERY WEEK**
- **78 women are diagnosed** with late-stage breast cancer **EVERY MONTH**
- **African American women** in the St. Louis metropolitan region are **44% MORE LIKELY TO DIE OF BREAST CANCER** than Caucasian women.

Unacceptable? Yes. And this is what strengthens our resolve to reach our **Bold Goal of cutting breast cancer deaths by 50% in the U.S. by 2026**. Your continued support is making an impact in eliminating breast cancer by strengthening our four mission pillars:

research + care + community + action

Thanks to your support, during the 2018-2019 grant cycle, Komen Missouri funding provided:

- **2,700** people with breast health education
- **1,300** no-cost screening mammograms for medically under served residents
- **650** people with breast cancer diagnostic services
- **962** breast cancer patients with treatment assistance including transportation services to medical appointments, medical care, prostheses, and case management
- **81** breast cancer diagnoses for people who otherwise may not have had access to this life-saving information and are now able to seek treatment

YOUR IMPACT ON CARE

MEET MONA Grateful Survivor

Mona sees herself as one of the lucky ones. In 2017, a Komen-funded mammogram at Mercy Hospital found her breast cancer, which led to a double mastectomy. Fortunately, she didn't need chemo or radiation. Now, this Hazelwood resident is busy proclaiming her gratitude for the help and support she received from Komen Missouri.

"When I was diagnosed, I had so many questions and so many worries. But the nurses at Mercy said Komen Missouri is there to help me. I never thought so much support was out there."

After her surgery, Mona had to slow down. Not easy for someone who's always been on the go, as a mother of two, and a certified nurse assistant used to putting the needs of others before her own.

Even during her recovery, she was thinking about how she would say thank you. What better way, she realized, than throw a party. So, on Oct. 13, 2018 Mona invited everyone she knew to an event where members of her caregiving team at Mercy, Komen Missouri and other support service providers drove home the importance of early detection and comprehensive treatment.

"That's what made all the difference for me. As someone whose mother was an 18-year breast cancer survivor, I got my mammograms faithfully each year. But what if I hadn't? I probably wouldn't be standing here," she told her friends at the event. "So, don't wait. And don't be afraid because there will be people who have your back, and that makes you stronger."

YOUR IMPACT ON CARE

MEET THERESA

Breast Health Road Warrior

Theresa Taylor knows a little something about the back roads of Missouri. In her job as outreach coordinator for Missouri Baptist Breast Health Care Center, she travels the state facilitating events that bring women in rural communities together with a state-of-the-art mammography van equipped with 3-D mammography.

“We see ourselves as a resource for rural clinics and health departments,” Theresa says. “Many of the same women come back year after year. They know they can rely on us even if they have no insurance or unaffordable deductibles. We connect with them personally. And when there’s a need for a diagnostic follow-up, they know we will be by their side.”

Theresa’s passion to travel the state is fueled by a couple of key things. First, she is a two-time breast cancer survivor. She credits that survival on early detection and the ability to access world-class care. That leads to her second reason for going the extra mile. It’s the young mother out there who finds a breast lump and waits months to get it checked out because her job offers no health benefits. She can’t afford the travel to the nearest city big enough to support a state-of-the-art breast health center to find answers.

“We will travel to every corner of the state to find the women who need us,” Theresa says. “Donors to Komen Missouri make that possible.”

YOUR IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

COLLABORATION. NAVIGATION. AWARENESS.

You Make Outreach Possible

Because of your support, more than \$520,000 in funding gave women through our region strength and hope to fight their diagnosis. Here are a few snapshots of outreach.

“Komen funding has allowed us to serve a percentage of low-income women who were ineligible for the Show Me Healthy Women program. Helping them pay their out-of-pocket expenses takes away those worries.”

Jennifer Stumpf, Outreach Coordinator
Mercy Breast Health Screening and Education Program

“Our nurse navigators and staff at the Breast Health Center save lives through their encouragement and moral support.”

Keri Hyatt, Outreach Coordinator
Breast Health Care for At-Risk Communities Program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital

“Through a Komen Missouri grant, SSM Health was able to image and diagnose an elderly immigrant from Russia with invasive ductal carcinoma. We worked with her to establish a financial assistance plan for her treatment services.”

Adrian Winheim, Outreach Coordinator
SSM Breast Care: Empowering and Engaging Women

“Ms. C. married the love of her life during treatment and never gave up even when her aggressive cancer metastasized. Komen Missouri was there for her all the way.”

Elaine Ottenlips, Outreach Coordinator
St. Louis University Cancer Center

“Komen Missouri funding made it possible for us to partner with the Domestic Violence Prevention Shelter in Illinois to provide women staying there with breast health education and mammography services.”

Debra Custer, Outreach Coordinator
START NOW Breast Cancer Awareness Services

YOUR IMPACT ON RESEARCH

MEET WILL GILLANDERS, MD, PHD

A Komen-funded breast cancer researcher at Siteman Cancer Center

It takes grit, determination and perseverance to ride a bike to work each day. It certainly isn't the easiest way to go, nor the most comfortable. But that doesn't stop surgeon and breast cancer researcher Will Gillanders, MD, from pedaling into his Siteman Cancer Center office every day.

Dr. Gillanders applies those same qualities to his Komen-funded research to identify a safe, effective and personalized vaccine for the breast cancer patients he treats. Thanks to donor support, since 2000 Komen Missouri has invested more than \$10 million in groundbreaking research aimed at saving lives.

"We are studying a specific type of vaccine called the cancer neoantigen vaccine," Dr. Gillanders says.

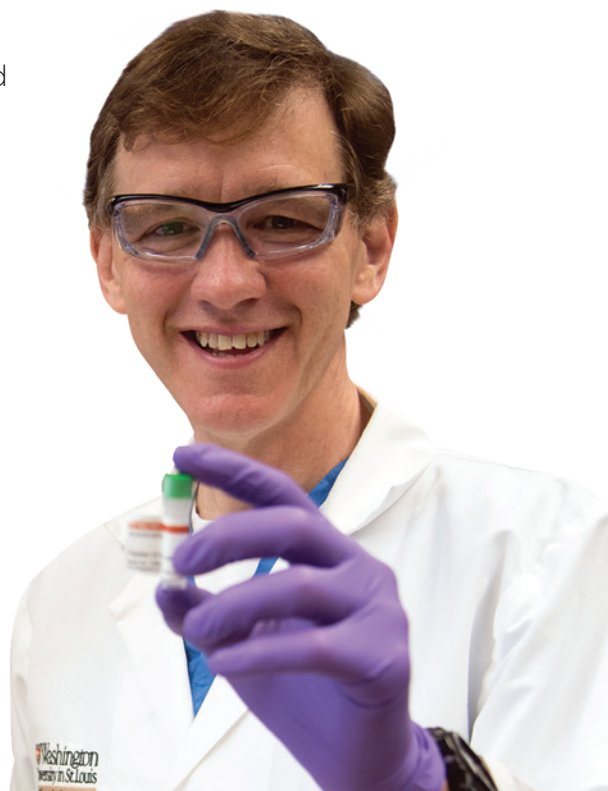
Neoantigens are the result of genetic mutations in breast cancer tumors. These mutations are found only in the tumors, not in the patient's normal tissue. For the Komen-funded study, Dr. Gillanders' team sequenced the genes of the breast cancer cells of 20 women to identify each patient's unique mutation profile. From there, the researchers used computational tools to determine which mutations were most likely to be recognized by the patient's immune system. Then, in a Washington University Medical School facility, they designed and manufactured a vaccine that targets an immune response to that specific mutation.

"As we near the end of this phase-one clinical trial, we can report that the vaccines we've used have been safe and, so far, effective in nearly every patient," Dr. Gillanders says.

In a follow-up study, Dr. Gillanders is combining personalized vaccines with a therapy that blocks a cancer cell's ability to shut down the immune system's attack. It's called immune checkpoint blockade therapy, and Dr. Gillanders hopes it will become a treatment that can be used along with chemotherapy in patients with newly diagnosed metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

That has been a difficult cancer to treat because a molecule in the tumor cell, called PD-L 1, blocks immune cells from attacking. Researchers think they can fortify immune cells with an antigen to PD-L 1 and disarm the checkpoint.

"We're looking first at adding this therapy to women with triple-negative breast cancer because we don't really have any other targeted therapy for this type of cancer," Dr. Gillanders says. "We hope this work will lead to improving the prognosis for those patients."



TAKE ACTION IN 2019

JOIN US IN RAISING FUNDS TO END BREAST CANCER

It's one thing to be aware of breast cancer. It's another to do something about it. Here's to the heroes. To those who get out there and take action. Who prove every day that they are so much more than a color. Here's to the people who are **MORE THAN PINK®**.

On **Saturday, June 8, 2019**, please join us for our inaugural Greater St. Louis MORE THAN PINK Walk™ and share your determination to support the survivors and those living with metastatic breast cancer in our community and beyond. All funds raised support local education, screening, and diagnostic programs and global research efforts to find the cures.

Register today then start fundraising to help us meet our ambitious \$665,000 goal. Together we will be Bold. Be Fearless. Be MORE THAN PINK®.

Join us at www.komenmissouri.org/STLWalk





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