



For Immediate Release:
March 25, 2009

For More Information, Contact:
Mary Westphal, 419.724.CURE

Susan G. Komen for The Cure[®] Now Covering All of Ohio **Northwest Ohio Affiliate adds six counties**

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is pleased to announce that, through its four Ohio Affiliates, it is now able to serve all 88 Ohio counties—ensuring that breast health services are within reach for every woman and family in the state.

Prior to this expansion, 28 of Ohio's 88 counties – approximately 13 percent of the state's population – were not served by a Komen affiliate. Now the Komen affiliates have the opportunity to serve the breast health needs of an additional 784,000 women through screening, education and treatment programs.

“As a state, Ohio ranks 34th in the country for breast cancer incidence and an alarming 4th in mortality,” said Mary Westphal, executive director of the Northwest Ohio Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. “As a result, reaching out to these underserved counties was imperative.”

Of the 28 new counties, 13 exceed national mortality rates and 10 exceed both national and state mortality averages, a huge concern considering Ohio's mortality rate is so high. Incidence rates for breast cancer are on average with the state rate for most of the new counties, but screening levels are lower than the state average in 17 of the 28 new counties.

“Many of the local grants we provide support programs that reach out to the uninsured and those who can least afford medical services,” said Westphal. “Given the current economy, it's more important than ever to get these critical breast health services to Ohio women where they live.”

In 2008, the four Ohio affiliates of Susan G. Komen for the Cure provided more than \$3 million to local breast health screening, education and treatment programs that served tens of thousands of women, ages 15 and older across the state.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure's four Ohio affiliates added the following counties to their service areas:

- **Northwest Ohio** (six) Crawford, Huron, Logan, Seneca, Shelby and Wyandot
- **Columbus** (seven) Champagne, Clark, Guernsey, Knox, Monroe, Morrow and Noble
- **Greater Cincinnati** (eight) Adams, Brown, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Highland, Miami and Preble
- **Northeast Ohio** (seven) Ashland, Belmont, Coshocton, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson and Richland

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is celebrating its 27th year and is committed to saving lives and ending breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures through a \$1 billion commitment and a host of new initiatives.

-###-