



For Immediate Release:
November 17, 2009

For More Information, Contact:
Krista Bannister, 864-234-5035

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Expands Service Area

(Greenville, SC) – The Upstate SC Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure has increased its service area from 11 to 22 counties—ensuring that breast health services are within reach for more women and families in the state. With this expansion, the Upstate SC Affiliate has changed its name to the South Carolina Mountains to Midlands Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Nationally, one woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes and one woman will die of breast cancer every thirteen minutes. In South Carolina, it is estimated that 2,820 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 640 women will die each year. Breast cancer mortality rates have decreased in the past decade, but not all women have benefited equally. Women of color, women living in rural areas, low income women, and uninsured and underinsured women bear the greatest burden.

This year, Komen SC Mountains to Midlands is providing grant monies to 13 programs that will serve more than 5,000 women in its 11 county service area. With that service area increasing to 22 counties, even more women will have access to Education, Screening and Treatment grants, which provide mammograms, follow-up procedures, and early breast cancer detection opportunities for low-income and uninsured women.

“South Carolina has one of the highest uninsured rates in the nation. Because of that, women have much lower screening rates and 41% are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer,” said Krista Bannister, Executive Director of the SC Mountains to Midlands Affiliate. “Breast Cancer screening could prevent 15-20% of all deaths and dramatically increase overall survival rates. In this current economy, now more than ever, we need to provide services to women all over our state.”

Prior to this expansion, 22 of South Carolina’s 46 counties – approximately 41 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 920,000 women through screening, education and treatment programs.

Currently, Susan G. Komen for the Cure covers 35 counties through three Affiliates:

- **SC Mountains to Midlands Affiliate:** Original counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union New counties: Aiken, Chester, Chesterfield, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland and Saluda.
- **Lowcountry Affiliate:** Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg
- **Charlotte Affiliate:** York County

The SC Mountains to Midlands Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is currently soliciting grants for innovative projects in the areas of breast health services otherwise not available to the medically underserved populations of Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg and Union counties. Grants are available for up to one (1) year. A Microsoft Word version of this application can be found under “Grants” on our website: www.KomenUpstateSC.org. The application deadline is Friday, December 18, 2009 noon est.

For more information, please visit www.KomenUpstateSC.org or call 864-234-5035.

-###-