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Susan G. Komen Awards \$375,000 to Community Clinics Health Network

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SAN DIEGO -- Susan G. Komen San Diego awarded \$375,000 to the Community Clinics Health Network (CCHN), a subsidiary of the Council of Community Clinics, for its Breast Cancer Diagnostic Services Fund. The grant allows CCHN to provide diagnostic services, including mammography, surgical consultations, breast biopsies, ultrasounds and ancillary services to qualified underinsured women under the age of 40 living in San Diego.

According to Gary Rotto, Director of Health Policy and Strategic Communications for the Council of Community Clinics, “The goal of this program is to increase the availability of financial resources for diagnostic services, primarily in young, low-income, underinsured and uninsured women in San Diego County and to allow for follow-up on breast abnormalities in a timely manner to confirm or rule out breast cancer.” Rotto estimates that with this funding from Komen San Diego, approximately 325 – 350 women will receive from 1040 – 1,120 diagnostic services between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

Rotto added, “CCHN has a well-established track record of assuring that qualified women in need of further evaluation for breast cancer receive access to screening and diagnostic services in a timely manner, regardless of ethnicity or insurance status. Our mission is to develop and implement collaborative and innovative programs and services to support community clinics and health centers and the patients and communities they serve.”

CCHN has administered the Breast Cancer Diagnostic Services Fund for San Diego County since 2000 with funding from Komen San Diego and other private foundations. Across all funds, CCHN has paid claims for over 2,000 women who have received more than 4,800 diagnostic services.

“Komen San Diego is the breast cancer safety net of San Diego County,” said Laura Farmer Sherman, executive director Komen San Diego. “When a woman has nowhere else to turn she turns to us. We provide her with everything she needs to make it through a breast cancer diagnosis and thrive after. Unique in San Diego County, no other organization fills the gaps like we do.”

Komen San Diego is the only organization providing qualified uninsured or underinsured women the free services they need for every step of the breast cancer journey. Services are received upon a referral from local community clinics; these services include mammograms, life-saving screenings, surgeries, temporary financial aid for living expenses, meal deliveries, education and outreach. Komen San Diego continues to be the County’s largest funder of free breast cancer treatments, services and support, with \$1 million being granted this year. Nationally, next to the U.S. government, Komen is the largest funder of breast cancer research in the world.

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ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CLINICS

Council of Community Clinics support community clinics and health centers in their efforts to provide access to quality health care with an emphasis on low income and uninsured populations. The 16-member community clinics and health centers operate more than 100 sites throughout San Diego, Imperial and Riverside Counties. For additional information, please visit the Council of Community Clinics at www.ccc-sd.org.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CLINICS HEALTH NETWORK

CCHN develops and implement collaborative and innovative programs and services to support community clinics and health centers and the patients and communities they serve. For additional information, please visit www.cchealthnetwork.com.

ABOUT SUSAN G. KOMEN SAN DIEGO

Since its inception in 1995, Komen San Diego has raised more than \$12.5 million to fund local non-profits who provide everything from free diagnostic mammograms and surgeries to meal delivery, child care and temporary financial aid. Seventy-five percent of every dollar raised in San Diego stays right here in San Diego County to fund free diagnostic mammograms, treatment and services for qualified uninsured and underinsured women and their families. The remaining 25 percent funds international breast cancer research. In fact, next to the U.S. government, Susan G. Komen is the largest funder of breast cancer research in the world. For more information, please visit www.komensandiego.org.