



Where the end of breast cancer begins.™

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUSAN G. KOMEN OZARK LAUNCHES COVID-19 RELIEF FUND TO HELP MEET NEEDS OF PEOPLE FACING BREAST CANCER DURING GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

***Rising Unemployment and Stressed Health Care System Put Breast Cancer Patients at Risk***

**SPRINGDALE – April 7, 2020** – Susan G. Komen Ozark has partnered with Hope Cancer Resources to help support the unique needs of people facing breast cancer during this health and economic crisis. Rising unemployment and an overburdened health care system is causing a perfect storm for breast cancer patients who have questions or need care. We have already seen patients lose income and fear for their health and survival, with many unable to access the treatment and medical care they critically need. Our work has never been more important, but the impact of COVID-19 makes it critically urgent.

“Our top priority is to make sure women and men who have been diagnosed with breast cancer are able to continue their treatment during this time and we want to help remove barriers to care by providing financial assistance to patients,” said Lauren Marquette, Executive Director of Komen Ozark.

**For those women and men looking for financial assistance during their treatment for breast cancer, Komen Ozark has now released funding to Hope Cancer Resources. Reach out to Hope Cancer Resources at 479-361-5847 or visit [www.hopcancerresources.org](http://www.hopcancerresources.org).**

Komen Ozark remains committed to doing whatever it takes to save lives by supporting those most vulnerable within the breast cancer community. Komen Ozark is asking the community to support urgent needs among our breast cancer community today by donating to Komen Ozark. Donations ensure that free, timely and important services continue for those in need, including:

- **Financial Assistance** through the newly created COVID-19 Relief Fund for cost of living expenses to patients in treatment for breast cancer.
- **Patient Navigation** to help anyone access the treatment they need by breaking down economic, social and emotional barriers; assist symptomatic women in obtaining necessary services; and answer questions related to healthcare concerns
- Continued **advocacy for breast cancer patients** and their needs among policy makers; diagnostic testing coverage and support Arkansas BreastCare program.
- **Virtual education experiences** to assist patients in accessing critical, timely information related to breast cancer treatment and COVID-19, yoga classes and mental health information on how to cope with stress and anxiety during this time.
- Funding lifesaving **research** and clinical trials to discover new treatments
- General **organizational support** to keep us operating at full capacity so we can continue to deliver our mission and programs.

Individuals and companies interested in supporting the unique needs of breast cancer patients during this health crisis are encouraged to visit the Komen Ozark resource page [HERE](#) to learn more or go to [www.komenozark.org](http://www.komenozark.org) to donate directly.

**About Komen Ozark**

The Ozark Affiliate of Susan G. Komen is dedicated to combating breast cancer at every front. Since its inception in 1998, the Ozark Affiliate has awarded nearly \$12 million to local organizations that provide bilingual breast health navigators, breast health education and breast cancer screening and diagnostic testing and emergency and treatment assistance for medically underserved women. In addition, nearly \$3.75 million has been invested in Susan G. Komen's Research program that targets breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer. The Komen Ozark Affiliate's service area covers Benton, Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Madison, Newton, Sebastian, and Washington Counties in Arkansas and Stone and Taney Counties in Missouri.

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