



## February 2011

### Sue Ann Says: We can help women in southeastern Wisconsin get free breast health exams

As a breast cancer survivor, I know how important it is to have regular breast health exams, especially if you're over age 40, have a history of breast diseases in your family, or currently have breast health issues. After all, getting tested regularly is the best way for women to lower their risk of dying from breast cancer. But sometimes, life circumstances make that difficult to do. Poverty, poor insurance and other barriers prevent screening because some women simply can't afford it. And that's difficult for me to swallow. Because I was one of the lucky ones; I had good insurance and access to some of our best doctors. For many women though, that's just not reality.

Now, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF) may be able to help.

WWHF has received a grant from the Southeast Wisconsin Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® to administer the **Kohl's Southeast Wisconsin Breast Health Assistance Fund**. This fund provides financial assistance to those who:

- Are in need of breast health screenings and diagnostic testing. (Diagnostic testing includes mammograms, clinical breast exams, diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, and biopsies.)
- Have been diagnosed with breast cancer and need access to treatment services and/or some financial assistance.

### Who is eligible?

- Residents of the southeast Wisconsin counties of Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.
- Uninsured or underinsured individuals and those who do not qualify for any other assistance programs. (Underinsured can mean: high deductibles, high copays and age restrictions.)
- Those whose income is at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (see chart).

Family Size	Annual Gross Household Income
1	\$43,320
2	\$58,280
3	\$73,240
4	\$88,200

5	\$103,160
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WWHF has been administering the fund since April 1, 2010 and we are humbled to have been able to help more than 200 applicants so far. Most, 64%, requested help to pay for preventive screenings; and if they needed additional diagnostic screenings due to abnormal preventive screenings, we paid for those, too. Another 36% already had breast cancer, and we were able to help them overcome barriers to care by paying for their insurance co-pays, medications, high risk insurance, and so on.

In general, approved applicants have access to care from participating groups like Columbia St. Mary's and Aurora Healthcare facilities. And we're always working to expand the provider network. We also may be able to connect you to other services like the Wisconsin Well Women Program.

So don't hesitate, call us today to get the breast screenings that could save your life.

Because it all begins with a healthy woman...

**((large sidebar)) For more information and to determine if you're eligible:**

Call us at 1-877-910-PINK (7465) or email [wwhf@wwhf.org](mailto:wwhf@wwhf.org).

*Sue Ann Thompson is founder and president of the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF), a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to help Wisconsin women and their families reach their healthiest potential. WWHF provides programs and conducts forums that focus on education, prevention, and early detection of diseases that affect women the most; connects individuals to health resources; produces and distributes the most up-to-date health education and resource materials; and, awards grants and scholarships to women health researchers and related community non-profits. To learn more, visit [wwhf.org](http://wwhf.org) or call 1-800-448-5148.*