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**KOMEN LOWCOUNTRY AWARDS $178,653 TO COMMUNITY NON-PROFITS**

**Charleston, SC – April 15, 2016 –**The Lowcountry Affiliate **of** Susan G. Komen has awarded $178,653 to three community non-profit organizations to improve access to breast health services in rural populations. Award recipients include Allendale County Hospital, Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, and McLeod Health. Each grantee reaches a different region within the affiliate’s 17-county service area.

Komen Lowcountry’s community health grants support programs reaching underserved populations with access to breast health screening, diagnostic and treatment support services, as well as vital breast health education. More than 50,000 South Carolinians will be impacted by Komen Lowcountry’s 2016-17 Community Grants.

“The decline of the economy in recent years has had a significant impact on the availability of breast health care to women in our area,” said Paula Wall of Allendale County Hospital. “Women often do not have established "medical homes", and no access to breast health care. Our program will remove this barrier with an added benefit of securing future health care services.”

“We conducted a needs assessment of our 17-county service area and saw the challenges faced by our rural populations. Many of these women live in areas where medical services aren’t even available,” said Lucy Spears, Mission Programs Manager. “Our grants get them access to the care they need. We’ve funded community health grants since 1994 and have the evidence to show that they save lives by providing free or low-cost care to our most vulnerable populations.”

About Komen Lowcountry and Susan G. Komen

Komen **Lowcountry serves 17 counties from the coast to the PeeDee. T**hrough events like the Komen **Lowcountry** Race for the Cure®, Komen **Lowcountry** has invested more than $6.8 million in community breast health programs and has helped contribute to the more than $800 million invested globally in research**.**For more information, call **843-556-8011** or visit [www.komenlowcountry.org](http://www.komenlowcountry.org).

Susan G. Komen is the world’s largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy’s life.

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