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## Susan G. Komen celebrates grants recipients

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Ten years ago, Janet Darnell was a 44-year-old single mother who cleaned houses for a living.

She decided it was time to get a mammogram and saved up for it because she had no insurance. They found a tiny lump.

"They said I had to have a biopsy," Darnell said. "I said there was no way. It was \$3,000."

Then came her savior: HOPE Bridges the Gap of Partners for Breast Cancer Care, which paid for Darnell's biopsy, surgery and radiation.

On Thursday, Darnell dined as that group's program director at an elegantly pink luncheon celebrating the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southwest Florida 2009 grant recipients.

She sat on a pink-cushioned chair at a rose-strewn table among about 115 others at the Grandezza Country Club in Estero, watching 10 breast-cancer-related charities receive their grants.

"They saved my life," Darnell said about her organization, her eyes brimming with tears.

In times of evermore empty pockets, Komen Southwest Florida is celebrating coffers fuller than ever.

The local chapter of the international organization which raises money for breast cancer education, research and treatment saw more than 8,000 people at its annual walk/run fundraiser March 14, and raised \$914,000.

Because of the success of the race, the affiliate was able to invest \$963,000 back into the local community, a 15 percent increase from last year.

Also, the local affiliate increased its coverage area to include five counties: Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry.

Because of all this, the group gave 10 grants compared to last year's eight.

"This is why we do what we do," said Pam Nulman, Komen board member.

The luncheon was a time for celebrating and a time to say "thank you."

Darnell's group received \$207,100. The money will help other scared single mothers like she used to be.

"We couldn't do it without Komen," she said, shaking her head. "We just couldn't."

## Additional Facts

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southwest Florida gave \$963,318 in grants to be used in the 2009-2010 year:

1. Lymphedema Resources Inc.: \$29,200; The grant will be used to fund a program of education and treatment for breast cancer survivors at risk for developing lymphedema or already coping with this

affliction in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties.

2. Lee Cancer Care, Breast C.A.R.E.: \$209,350; The program helps people with breast cancer who are uninsured or underinsured with diagnosis, staging and treatment in Lee, Collier and Hendry counties.

3. Neighborhood Health Clinic, Breast Health Program: \$87,390; The clinic's program will provide breast health care for working, low-income, uninsured adults in Collier County.

4. Family Health Centers of S.W. Florida Inc., Jessie Trice Breast Cancer Prevention Project: \$157,453; The project provides education and screening services aimed at early detection of breast cancer in women from low-income African-American and Hispanic communities.

5. Naples Community Hospital, Breast Cancer Care: \$92,350; The project's goal is to restore breast cancer health and maintain the patients' dignity and quality of life through jackets that store their drainage and medical lines, plus staff such as a new breast health navigator who guides patients throughout the system.

6. Partners for Breast Cancer Care, HOPE Bridges the Gap: \$207,100; The program pays for breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment for people in Lee County who can't pay themselves.

7. CHS Healthcare, Collier Mammography Assistance Program: \$83,525; The program will prevent breast cancer from advancing among underinsured and uninsured, low-income, mostly minority women in Collier County by removing financial and transportation barriers to screening mammography and by improved outreach to women who do not regularly get screenings.

8. Manatee County Health Department: \$65,950; The Mammograms for the Cure program will provide screening and diagnostics for at least 75 eligible women in Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties as well as help at least 300 women ages 50 to 64 who are enrolled in the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in Southwest Florida's five counties.

9. Lucy's Angels, Project Graduate: \$11,000; The project's mission is to raise money for programs that assist people in Hendry and Glades counties who don't have money for mammograms and other diagnostic procedures for breast cancer.

10. Light of Southwest Florida Inc., Uninterrupted Breast Cancer Treatment: \$20,000; The organization will offer financial assistance to underinsured people to allow them to continue the breast cancer treatment they require.

For more information about the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southwest Florida, visit [komenswfl.org](http://komenswfl.org) or call 498-0016.

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