MORE THAN PINK

2017 IMPACT REPORT

SUSAN G. KOMEN PUGET SOUND

Komen Puget Sound has been expanding access to breast health care for more than 20 years. Our community programs foster partnerships with measurable health impact through education, outreach, advocacy and grants. We reach individuals across Puget Sound with lifesaving breast health services. This year’s Community Impact Report is designed to help tell our story.
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Our work at Komen Puget Sound centers on two key areas – creating health equity throughout the state of Washington and supporting breakthrough research that can help find new treatments and lead us closer to a cure. These two areas support Susan G. Komen’s overall Bold Goal - to reduce the nation’s 40,000 breast cancer deaths by 50 percent by 2026.

Every four years, Komen Puget Sound undergoes an intensive research process to determine our programming and funding priorities for the next four years. This research is designed to provide an evidence base for guiding our investments, focused on those communities that have the greatest level of breast cancer disparities here in Puget Sound.

In 2015, we completed our research and determined our priorities through 2020. The results of this study can be found on our webpage: Strengthening Partners for Community Impact. This report serves as the basis for our time and financial investments, including our own engagement with communities. Our research found high levels of disparity in the Greater Metropolitan Area and Grays Harbor County.

In addition, women of color were found to be adversely affected by breast cancer outcomes. In particular, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African American, Pacific Islander and Hispanic women were found to have higher levels of disparities when compared to other groups of individuals in our community, including members of the LGBTQ community. These disparities are a direct result of the lack of equity within our health care system and society at large.

RACE ISN’T A RISK FACTOR. RACISM IS.

We know that our diverse community needs innovative programs to respond to patients and eliminate barriers to care. To meet these needs, we participate in community organizing and empowerment efforts, advocate for policies to increase health care access, lead coalitions and partnerships, convene events and programs and support community-based
organizations throughout the Puget Sound. Komen Puget Sound is on a mission to build equity and social justice for all. We do this by (1) developing programs tailored to address community barriers; (2) understanding and dismantling systems of power and racial injustice; and (3) focusing on communities where the need is greatest. Specifically, Komen focuses on:

- **Increasing awareness** of breast health services and screening guidelines and empowering patients to access care;
- **Improving access** to health care through insurance navigation and reducing barriers to care (i.e., providing transportation, child care or language interpretation);
- **Ensuring quality** healthcare services by training healthcare providers on culturally humble care provision;
- **Influencing the public and policy landscape** to keep breast health on the agenda; and
- **Raising funds** to support partners and breakthrough research.

**PART 1: HEALTH EQUITY PROGRAMS**

**Mammogram Screenings and Health Education**

We know that many women don’t have access to adequate health care. One way to address this need is to bring the healthcare to women, rather than asking women to come to care. We meet women where they are.

This year, Komen Puget Sound organized and convened 8 family health and safety fairs to improve the health of communities residing in King, Pierce, Mason and Snohomish Counties. These fairs were supported through a network of partnerships with Molina Healthcare of Washington, Medical Teams International, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Consulate of Mexico in Seattle, New York Life, WA Department of Labor & Industries, Al-Shifa Clinic, UW School of Pharmacy, UW School of Medicine, Seattle University School Nurses Association and the Western Washington National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

In addition to our coordination and partnership for health fairs throughout our region, this year we also developed a Health Fair Toolkit for training our partners. To date, we have trained 3 community-based

**Mammogram Screenings**

We screened 148 women at our health fairs in 2017.

These screenings were implemented through partnerships with the Women’s Health Outreach Program, King County Public Health Department, Swedish Cancer Institute, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Univision Seattle, Radio Luz 1680AM and El Rey 1360AM.

Of all the health fair participants:

- 56% of the adults reported that they were uninsured, and 32% were covered via Apple Health
- 95% of children under 18 years old had Apple Health Plan

Of the 148 women who were screened:

- 106 women were enrolled in the BCCHP program
- 37 women had Apple Health Plan (Medicaid)
- 5 women had private insurance
- 15 women had an abnormal mammogram and needed additional screening
- 3 women were diagnosed with breast cancer

**RACE AND ETHNICITY OF PEOPLE RECEIVING MAMMOGRAMS**

- Non-white Hispanic 12%
- African American 4%
- Hispanic/Latino 41%
- Asian 33%
- African Immigrant 10%
organizations, such as Jubilee Reach, to host their own health fairs and mammogram screenings.

“I had breast cancer in one breast; it was removed while I was raising 3 kids. Then I lost everything in my divorce and have been homeless now for 5 years.” - Patient

“We are seeing a lot of apprehension within some of the communities we serve. The fear of deportation is real for many clients, and can impact our efforts in assisting clients. However, many clients are extremely grateful to [have access to services] and are thankful for their [ability to get care with] anonymity.” - Community Organizer

The Breast, Cervical and Colon Cancer Health Program (BCCHP)
The BCCHP program provides free breast, cervical and colon cancer screening to eligible people in Washington State. Eligibility for the BCCHP is primarily based on health insurance status, income and age.

Komen works closely with the Breast, Cervical and Colon Cancer Program (BCCHP) of the Washington Department of Public Health. Not only is BCCHP a Komen Grantee, it also support our health fairs and has become an increasingly important partner in our collaboration with community health workers and promotores.

Community Health Workers
Komen Puget Sound has a long history of investment in community health workers (CHWs) and patient navigators. At least $3M has been granted to community partners who work with Promotores de Salud and CHWs over the last ten years.

These community advocates have the ability to directly reduce barriers to care by; providing one-on-one education; group education, transportation support; language translation and interpretation; and providing reminders to patients about preventative healthcare services such as mammogram screenings.

Promotores/CHWs accomplish these and other outcomes by providing education, advocacy and capacity-building in their communities, resulting in:

What is a Promotora or Community Health Worker?
A promotora or community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW/promotora to serve as a link between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of services delivered. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.
• **Improved access** to services
• **Better community understanding** of the health and social service system
• **Enhanced communication** between client and health provider
• **Increased appropriate rates of service** utilization
• **Decreased costs** for organizations and government programs
• **Improved adherence** to health recommendations
• **Reduced need for emergency** and specialty services
• **Improved overall community health** status

Given the impact these individuals can have in reducing barriers to care for communities of color, we are taking a more proactive role in helping to facilitate conversations and community organizing for CHWs across our state. Our role is to listen and support CHWs to define their own success and ensure that CHWs have the opportunity and resources to enhance the impact they already have in communities, moving towards equity.

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**What is Cultural Sensitivity?**

Cultural sensitivity refers to a set of skills that allows you to understand and learn about people whose cultural background is not the same as yours. Cultural sensitivity is being aware that cultural differences and similarities between people exist without assigning them a value – positive or negative, better or worse, right or wrong.

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**Worship in Pink**

The Worship in Pink (WiP) campaign is a grassroots effort of Puget Sound churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to educate their congregations and local community about breast health and breast cancer. It enables congregations to help women and men receive lifesaving mammograms and be more aware of their risks for breast cancer.

Typically, volunteers from the different faith institutions have taken the lead in introducing and implementing this program in order for their members to learn more about breast cancer and the importance of early diagnosis. Most of these volunteers are retired nurses or community members who have been affected with a chronic disease such as breast cancer or have experience working in a medical field. In 2017:

• **26 faith institutions participated** in the 2017 Worship in Pink campaign
• **4,525 members of the African American community and 175 members of the Latino community** increased their understanding about breast cancer
• **4 churches hosted health fairs** during their WiP program with blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings
• **WiP campaign participants reported that 22 African-American women had mammogram screenings**

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LGBTQ Breast Health Toolkit and Training

Over the course of the last two years, Komen Puget Sound has developed and implemented a cultural sensitivity program for LGBTQ health providers.

Through our research, training, and toolkit lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community members and providers deepen their own knowledge of breast cancer risk, prevention and early detection, while creating space for courageous conversations around culturally-sensitive provision of care.

As a result of this program:

- Our research has been accessed across twenty different states, Australia and the U.K.
- Four local health systems were trained in LGBTQ and trans* health cultural sensitivity
- 494 providers and clinic staff participated in LGBTQ trainings and conversations
- 29 mammograms and 47 clinical breast exams were performed

PART 2: GRANTMAKING

Since 1994, Komen Puget Sound has invested more than $30 million in local non-profit, tribal and government agencies that provide breast health and breast cancer services to residents living in our 16-county service area. In 2018, Komen Puget Sound awarded $610,000 in grants for vital services to underserved women and families.

Komen has three primary funds focused on improving access to breast health services:

**Screening and Diagnostic Fund, Treatment Access Fund, and Health Equity Fund.** The first fund pays for direct services, i.e. mammogram, diagnostic tests, and biopsies, for those who can’t afford care. The second fund gives emergency financial assistance to patients undergoing treatment to help pay for rent, utilities, food, co-pays, or any other financial needs for low-income women. The third fund focuses on decreasing barriers to care for underserved communities, primarily through the use of community health workers and patient navigators. These health equity investments are complemented by a Breast Cancer Research Fund, including funding metastatic breast cancer research, which can be utilized by donors for restricted giving.

![2017-2018 Investment Areas Chart]

- **Health Equity Fund,** $275,000
- **Screening and Diagnostics Fund,** $200,000
- **Treatment Access Fund,** $125,000
- **Small Grants,** $10,000
The 2016-2017\(^1\) grant recipients provided over 35,000 vital services to approximately 8,000 underserved women in the Komen’s 16-county Western Washington service area and responded to specific community needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Breast Exams</td>
<td>9,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>1,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance</td>
<td>2,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammograms</td>
<td>5,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivorship Services</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>2,655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grantees will carry on supporting women to get to and through the healthcare system. We will continue our investments in direct service provision through our partnership with the Washington State Department of Health as well as our emergency treatment access program with Cancer Lifeline. In addition, **we are doubling down on our investments in community health workers and patient navigators as a key intervention in reducing barriers to care for low-income women and, in turn, improving health equity**.

### 2017 Community Health Grantees

#### Health Equity Fund

**Citrine Health/Latino Community Fund – $35,096**

**Women’s Health Outreach**

This program provided no-cost mammograms and health services to minority women in Seattle/King County who did not or cannot access them through mainstream clinical resources. Screenings and follow-ups targeted those on limited incomes, regardless of age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**International Community Health Services (ICHS) – $63,000**

**Breast Health Outreach, Prevention and Education Program**

This funding provided breast health outreach, education and screening to low-income, limited English-speaking Non-Hispanic, African descent, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino women in Seattle/King County.

**South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) – $80,000**

**Native Women’s Wellness Program**

This program provided breast health outreach, education, screening and support to women in rural tribal communities in Southwest Washington who rarely or never have been screened for breast cancer.

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\(^1\) Data for 2017-2018 grantees will not be available until June.
Northwest Leadership Foundation/Korean Women’s Association – $55,800
Outreach Demonstration Project
Led by the Leaders in Women’s Health coalition in Pierce County, this project provided early breast cancer outreach, screening and referral for hundreds of African-American women.

American Cancer Society – $40,500
Increasing Breast Cancer Screening for Underserved Women in Grays Harbor County
This funding allowed SeaMar Community Health Centers to increase low breast cancer screening rates among their patient population. The funds also provided for patient navigation and treatment support for those in need.

Treatment Assistance Fund

Cancer Lifeline – $175,000
Komen Patient Assistance Fund (KPAF)
Cancer Lifeline administered Komen Puget Sound’s KPAF and provided financial assistance and support to close to 350 low-income patients who were in treatment for breast cancer.

Screening and Diagnostics Fund

Washington State Department of Health – $225,000
Breast, Cervical and Colon Health Program (BCCHP)
Funding to the Washington state BCCHP provided breast cancer screenings, lifesaving mammograms and diagnostics to more than 4,000 low-income women.

Komen Puget Sound also provides up to $10,000 in small grants to 8-10 organizations throughout the year. These include churches, tribal entities, community-based organizations and health clinics who are focused on their specific community such as the India Association of Western Washington, Gay City, New Life Baptist Church, Somali Health Board and Swinomish Tribal Health Clinic.

Together with our grantees and partners, we are working to increase health equity throughout our region by creating tailored interventions that align with community needs, building equal opportunity for the highest attainment of health.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES: A PATIENT STORY

“ICHS saved my life,” the 60-year-old said. “I don't know what I would have done without it.” In 2013, after getting a divorce, without a job or health insurance, and feeling alone and depressed, she received the heartbreaking news following a mammogram. She had breast cancer. She did not know what to do until she recalled visiting with some people from ICHS at a recent community health fair at her church, in Seattle. She met up with Veronica Kim, ICHS Women’s Preventive Health Services Coordinator, who helped her secure low-cost medical insurance through the state, and map out a treatment plan for her illness. Through the ICHS program targeting breast health, she received her needed screenings, treatment, and other support. She has since transitioned to receiving medical insurance through the Affordable Care Act, and continues with the treatment program. “When I was diagnosed with cancer, I was very stressed, felt depressed, and had no hope. It seemed like everything was black,” she said. “ICHS and Veronica helped me. They told me not to worry. I am very grateful.”
PART 3: RESEARCH

Along with our investment in health equity and access to health care, researchers throughout the Puget Sound have received grants to better understand why cancer grows, where it goes and how to stop it. This investment comes from funds raised at the Affiliate level, as well as through funding provided by our headquarters. Komen’s research program is funded in part by contributions from Komen’s nationwide network of affiliates, which directs 25 percent of funds raised locally to Komen’s national research program, while investing the remaining 75 percent into community programs. This year, Komen Puget Sound invested approximately $382,000 into research programs.2

These investments go to researcher who contribute to an international advisory group of distinguished scholars and leaders in breast cancer research. Many of these grant recipients also serve as advisors for Komen’s research, education and advocacy programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Komen Scholars

Komen Scholars are researching how to overcome drug resistance in breast cancer patients, and are seeking to gain a better understanding of how and why breast cancer spreads, so that we can better treat metastatic breast cancer and hopefully, prevent it all together. Our current Komen Scholars include:

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Candice Grzelak, Ph.D. whose research focuses on understanding why breast cancer has a tendency to spread to the liver, why breast cancer cells in the liver stay quiet for long periods of time and what triggers them to awaken and grow once again. Understanding this process will allow the design of new therapeutic approaches for metastatic breast cancer.

Benjamin Anderson, M.D. is assessing breast health care needs in low- and middle-income countries. This work will identify unmet needs and provide partner countries and organizations with information and the tools needed to implement resource-appropriate interventions and improve breast care and outcomes for women in their countries.

BREAST HEALTH GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Komen Scholar Benjamin Anderson, M.D., of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI), received $550,000 in 2017 to evaluate the strengths and gaps in processes used by health care facilities in low-resource settings. The goal of this research is to assist health care facilities in evaluating and implementing breast health interventions to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Strategies to build health care capacity in low and middle income countries can be applied in underserved communities in the U.S. as well, Dr. Anderson said. “Today is a critical time where real and meaningful progress can be made by wisely using resources to save lives at home and abroad,” he said.

Susan G. Komen is a co-founder of BHGI and has provided support continuously since 2002. Several ongoing Komen grants, awarded in previous years to local researchers including Mary-Claire King, Ph.D. and Nora Disis, M.D. bring Komen’s total research investment in Washington state institutions to $11,630,427 since 1982.

2 Numbers are preliminary.
The University of Washington

Mary L. “Nora” Disis, M.D. is working to develop a vaccine to block inflammation in obese, fatty tissue with the goal of reducing the incidence of breast cancer in obese women.

Julie Gralow, M.D. is bringing together medical experts, researchers, patients, policymakers and other key stakeholders to discuss opportunities for increasing inclusion of breast cancer patients with bone-only metastasis in clinical trials. Bone metastasis patients are currently under-represented in clinical trials. The meeting will provide an open forum to discuss current knowledge and challenges associated with metastatic breast cancer in the bone, and come to consensus around solutions and opportunities moving forward.

PART 4: VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are our ambassadors carrying the powerful message of Susan G. Komen and its work into their communities. Volunteers enable the organization to strengthen existing programs, add new programs, procure funds and resources, add specialized skills and talents, and increase public awareness of services.

Race for the Cure is Komen Puget Sound’s largest volunteer event each year, but volunteers participate in many different ways as summarized in the table below. The value of volunteer hours in 2017 was $24.14/per hour.3 The value of the 4,708 Komen Puget Sound Volunteer hours is equal to $113,651 for 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race for the Cure</td>
<td>2294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Celebration</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Notes</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Review Committees</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch for the Cure</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Administration</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Outreach</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivor Celebration</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Part Events</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4708</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Komen 101

Komen Puget Sound offers Komen 101 classes throughout the year for volunteers who want to get to know more about the work Komen does, and to breast cancer patient and survivors who want to learn more about Komen resources. The classes are two hours in length and offer an overview on breast cancer and breast health, background on Susan G. Komen national and what makes Komen Puget Sound unique. Classes are offered at the KPS office and at partner locations throughout our area. In FY2017, six classes were offered with average attendance of 8 volunteers, breast cancer patients and survivors per class.

Speakers Bureau

Komen Speakers are invited to speak at community service organizations, churches, business meetings and women’s groups in the Puget Sound area. This year Komen Puget Sound held two Speaker Bureau classes, one specifically designed for volunteers and survivors who are raising money for the Race for the Cure. We now have over 50 speakers trained for events throughout the year.

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3 That figure is estimated by the Independent Sector, [www.independantsector.org](http://www.independantsector.org).
Impact Celebration
Last year, Komen Puget Sound welcomed an enthusiastic, supportive group of friends, old and new on May 12 for the annual Impact Celebration at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. Attendees shared in the announcement of more than $700,000 in funding to Komen’s local 2017-2018 community grantees and joined in celebration of the achievements of volunteers and partners. This event had over 200 community participants and was sponsored by Fred Meyer, Swedish Cancer Institute and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.

PART 5: ADVOCACY

The 2017-2019 Komen Puget Sound Legislative Agenda focused on three key areas:

Defend and increase access to healthcare. Health equity, including access to breast cancer information and services, is dependent on adequate access to healthcare. We will work with stakeholders to ensure that healthcare remains a top priority. This will include support of key interventions that reduce barriers to care among marginalized populations.

- **Increase funding for Community Health Workers (CHWs).** CHWs serve as a bridge between healthcare providers and community members. They have been shown to reduce health disparities among marginalized populations by helping individuals understand disease and the importance of preventative services, such as early detection. In addition, CHWs make sure that patients get to and through the health system, and that they receive quality care.

- **Oppose efforts to roll back existing health coverage and support finding solutions that ensure all Washingtonians have access to health care.** In addition, efforts at the state and federal levels in recent years have led to Washington reducing our uninsured rate down to 5.8%. As of March 2017, over 1.7 million Washington residents have health coverage through our Washington Healthplanfinder, including over 50,000 children enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which are now at risk for running out of funding since it has not yet been reauthorized by Congress.

- **Improve access to health care by increasing Medicaid reimbursement to Medicare rates.** People on Medicaid often face challenges with finding a provider that will accept Medicaid coverage. This is in large part due to the low reimbursement rates provided for Medicaid. Under the Affordable Care Act there was a temporary increase up to Medicare rates, but that increase has expired, and reimbursements returned to the lower Medicaid rates. As a result, clinics and providers are closing their doors to patients on Medicaid. Raising the Medicaid rate will improve access to care in Washington and result in better disease prevention, earlier diagnosis and treatment, and fewer emergency room visits.

Improve data sources to inform decision-making. Better data is needed to ensure prioritization of services among decision-makers. This is particularly true when it comes to metastatic cancer and marginalized populations, such as LGBTQ individuals and communities of color. We will work with government, private sector partners, community stakeholders, and research institutions to address data gaps.
Protect funding for the Washington’s Breast, Cervical and Colon Cancer Program (BCCHP). The BCCHP program is central to ensuring that women have access to free breast health screenings, diagnostics and biopsy, as well as and cost subsidization for out-of-pocket expenses. We will advocate to maintain and, if necessary, increase funding for the program in order to meet community needs.

**KEY ADVOCACY WINS**

**2SHB 1523 (SB 5602):** Requiring health plans to cover, with no cost sharing, all preventive services required to be covered under federal law as of December 31, 2016.  
**Sponsors:** Robinson, Johnson, Cody, Harris, Pollet, Doglio, Appleton, Fitzgibbon, Tharinger, Farrell, McBride, Fey and Macri.  
**Summary:** A health plan must, at a minimum, provide coverage for the same preventive services required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and any federal rules or guidance in effect on December 31, 2016, implementing the PPACA’s preventive services requirement. The health plan may not impose cost-sharing requirements for these preventive services, which include: immunizations for certain diseases, including diphtheria, hepatitis, influenza, and measles; autism screening for children aged 18-24 months; blood pressure and cholesterol screenings; screenings for certain diseases, including diabetes, colorectal cancer, and HIV; and contraception for women.

**ESHB 2408 (SB 6564):** Preserving access to individual market health care coverage throughout Washington state.  
**Sponsors:** Cody, Jinkins, Goodman, Johnson, Slatter, Tharinger, Stanford, Macri, Ormsby, Doglio and Appleton.  
**Summary:** Requires a health carrier that offers a school employees’ benefits board-approved health plan to school employees to, for plan years beginning January 1, 2020, offer at least one silver and one gold qualified health plan on the state health benefit exchange in a county where the carrier offers the health plan to school employees. Addresses the reduction of rates for coverage in the state health insurance pool. Requires the state health insurance pool administrator to include rate reductions received by individuals when determining the total net cost of pool operation.

**Advocacy Results**

The 2018 Washington State legislative session moved at an incredibly rapid pace as legislators worked to not only end on time, something that was much desired given the record-breaking length of the 2017 session, but Democrats also took advantage of their new majority in the Senate to pass some unprecedented policy changes. There were 1,410 bill introduced during the 2018 session (763 House bills and 647 Senate bills) and 308 bills passed the legislature (165 House bills and 143 Senate bills). Specifically, Komen Puget Sound tracked over 70 bills throughout the session, actively supporting 46 of these. We worked in close partnership with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the Bleeding Disorder Foundation of Washington to push for legislation that helps expand access to healthcare through insurance coverage and coverage of preventative services.

**PART 6: SURVIVORS AND METASTATIC PATIENTS**

Metastatic breast cancer, which is breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body like the brain, liver, bones or lungs, is responsible for almost all of the nation’s 40,000 annual breast cancer deaths. More than 154,000 women are living with metastatic disease in the U.S. today.
Komen Puget Sound has prioritized outreach to metastatic patients and has developed a coalition of patients who are advocating for new treatment breakthroughs and, eventually, a cure for breast cancer. KPS partners with many organizations in the Puget Sound area to reach survivors, newly diagnosed and metastatic patients. Through our partnerships, we estimate that we engage with over 5,000 survivors and patients each year.

In addition, breast cancer survivors and metastatic patients are active participants in Komen 101 which helps to increase awareness of the work Komen does in the Puget Sound area. Over 3200 survivors receive the monthly newsletter with updated resources, event invites and the latest information on breast cancer research. Local survivors are used as resources, volunteers and a sounding board for Komen Puget Sound.

Komen Puget Sound continues to connect with survivors and metastatic patients through outreach programs, classes and networking events. KPS manages an active Facebook networking group and hosts Coffee with Komen events at the office on a regular basis. This year we reached over 200 participants at these events.

### FORD WARRIORS IN PINK PARTNERSHIP

Ford Warriors in Pink is a national organization dedicated to helping those touched by breast cancer, through actions that support, inspire and empower patients, survivors and co-survivors throughout their journey.

Komen Puget Sound partners with local Ford Warriors in Pink to provide materials to patients who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer. Ford Warriors and Pink can be found at the Race for the Cure and the Seattle 3-Day. Together, we have provided over 300 bags to local women. Visit [www.warriors inpink.ford.com](http://www.warriorsinpink.ford.com) to learn more.

### Survivor Celebration

Each year, in partnership with Holland America, Komen Puget Sound invites up to 400 breast cancer patients and survivors to the annual Komen Puget Sound Survivor Celebration, where they enjoy a festive in-port luncheon and live entertainment. This year Holland America Line hosted the event which featured a panel of four breast cancer survivors sharing their story. This event is designed to create community, connections and hope for women throughout their breast cancer journey.

### Northwest Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference

On September 22-23, Komen Puget Sound welcomed patients and partners to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Northwest Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference. A free, open-to-the-public event held at Amazon Meeting Center, the NWMBCC was organized by breast cancer patients for patients whose disease has metastasized, giving patients and caregivers opportunities to learn from prominent breast cancer researchers and advocates.

There were over 350 individuals registered for the conference. The first day of the conference had approximately 220 participants. The second day had approximately 260 participants. This included 24 individuals who received travel scholarships from throughout the country. Another 70+ speakers, volunteers, vendors and sponsors were also at the conference. Attendees came from across the country and across borders – as far as Canada and Puerto Rico – with representatives from 17 different states. In-person numbers were also complimented by a broad online presence with Facebook video views reaching over 40,000. At least one attendee was participating from the Netherlands.
As a result of the conference, we were able to achieve the following:

- **Increased collaboration among metastatic breast cancer organizations**, development of improved understanding, and alignment around a common agenda.
- **Increased involvement and engagement of metastatic community in the broader breast cancer conversation.**
- **Increased patient understanding of key treatment options and emerging science**, integrative medicine and healthy lifestyle and advocacy engagement within the health system and in legislative action.
- **Improved relationship between Komen Puget Sound, Komen Headquarters and the metastatic community.**
- **Community building and increased understanding of Invasive Lobular Carcinoma**, serving as a first-of-kind opportunity for lobular patients from across the world to engage with top researchers.

Perhaps the most compelling outcome of the conference, however, was the cross-agency collaboration and full engagement of metastatic breast cancer patients across the country. Not only did this event foster meaningful conversations between leaders in the field that typically did not engage, it also built community among metastatic breast cancer patients, ILC patients, and breast cancer survivors. This community-building helped create hope for the community at large – that those organizations, researchers, doctors and advocates with the greatest influence were ready and willing to listen to the patient voice.

**Finally, because of the success of this conference, Pfizer, a conference supporter of Komen Puget Sound, has granted $500,000 to Komen Headquarters to support similar conferences, conversations, meetings and programs for metastatic patients throughout the country this year.**

“Overall I thank everyone for their efforts in putting this on and working to have it available to everyone. I was diagnosed 5/2/17 with good results and consider myself on the road to being cancer free, however, I want to empower myself and help others learn more about breast cancer and metastatic breast cancer. I was one of those that thought all breast cancer diagnosis’s were about the same except for the stage, didn’t realize how different they are and how the make-up of tumors can vary. Thank you for educating me to help educate others and spreading the word how self-exams and self-health awareness too are so very important in early detection.”

- Conference Attendee

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**PART 7: THANK YOU**

It is only through the generosity of our donors, partners, grantees and elected officials that Komen Puget Sound has been able to have an impact in our community. This support forms the bedrock of our organization and without it we would not be able to reach those women and men who are most in need. Here at Komen, we believe that all communities, regardless of color, gender or ethnicity, have the right to quality health care, including breast cancer services. Every day, Komen Puget Sound and its partners are working to combat inequities while supporting women and men to access lifesaving breast health care. Together we can make change happen.