



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Choose Your Path to Breast Health***

**The Maryland Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®'s Educational Symposium Focuses on the African-American Community**

**Saturday, April 17, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
The Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center  
Morgan State University**

**Baltimore, MD (February 16, 2010)** - Baltimore City is hard-hit by breast cancer. While Maryland currently ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for breast cancer mortality rates, Baltimore City is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for breast cancer mortality. African American women in Baltimore City are at an even highest risk of dying of breast cancer with the second highest death rate in the state. An average of 102 black women in Baltimore city die of breast cancer each year. This is unacceptable. The women dying of breast cancer are our mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, friends and neighbors and co-workers. But there is something women can do—educate themselves, get screened and raise awareness in their community.

The Maryland Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure invites women in Baltimore City to join them at their 16<sup>th</sup> annual educational symposium, Choose Your Path to Breast Health, sponsored by Afro-American Newspapers and ABC 2 News. Join Sherrie Johnson of WMAR-TV ABC 2 News as mater of ceremonies at this free event to learn more about breast health and how to care for yourself. Three expert speakers, local and regional breast surgeons, physicians and nurses, will show attendees how breast cancer impacts them and their community as well as when to get a mammogram and how to reduce their risk of breast cancer. Attendees can also visit the community resource exhibitors and connect with area organizations such as local breast centers, clinics and support agencies. Community exhibitors will teach women how to do breast self-exams and connect women with mammogram resources.

This year's keynote speaker, Sandra Chandler, daughter of "Baltimore's Mother Teresa," Bea Gaddy, will share the story of her mother's breast cancer and the powerful message of prevention and early detection. Bea Gaddy knew she had cancer long before she sought any medical attention but she continued to do what many women do: put other's needs before her own.

This celebration of sisterhood and survivorship is free and open to the public; however advanced registration is required as capacity is limited. Interested individuals must register for the event. Groups are welcome. Complete the registration form online at [www.komenmd.org](http://www.komenmd.org) or call 410-938-8990.

**About Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and the Komen Maryland Affiliate**

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever, and in 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The Maryland Affiliate is part of the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. Through events like the Komen Maryland Race for the Cure, the Maryland Affiliate has invested \$15 million in community breast cancer programs since 1993. Up to 75 percent of net proceeds generated by the Affiliate stays in Maryland. The remaining 25 percent funds national breast cancer research, often taking place at Maryland institutions. For more information, call 410-938-8990 or visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

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