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**Free Mammograms to Underserved Caribbean and African American Women to Combat Breast Cancer through Early Detection**

**ATLANTA, GA** – The Atlanta Jamaican Association in conjunction with The Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta Affiliate, Emory University, and Grady is offering free mammograms and breast health education to underserved women. Caribbean and African-American women who are 40-64 years old and have no health insurance are invited to attend a health education session about breast health, the benefits of early detection, breast cancer risk factors, and a specific type of breast cancer, called Triple Negative Breast Cancer. After attending the session, interested women can sign up to receive **FREE** mammography services at Grady's Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence (funding from the Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta Affiliate pays for the mammography services). The health education sessions will occur at various community events throughout greater Atlanta. Please contact Community Patient Navigators, Ms. Christine Marzouca at (404) 798-9025; [komencpncm@gmail.com](mailto:komencpncm@gmail.com) or Ms. Evette Taylor-Reynolds at (404) 642-0339; [komencpnetr@gmail.com](mailto:komencpnetr@gmail.com) to schedule a health education session.

This partnership is unique because the project seeks to educate women of Caribbean and African-American ancestry to raise awareness and early detection of Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Research has demonstrated that women of African descent have a higher

incidence of Triple Negative Breast Cancer than Caucasian and Hispanic women. In the past, breast cancer community outreach programs in Georgia have targeted African-American women and have not included efforts to specifically target and enroll Caribbean women. It is imperative to understand possible cultural differences among the identified population and for women of all ages to be screened who are at high risk. Education, navigation, mammography, and other breast related services will be made available to those who qualify and enroll in the project.

“This unique, innovative project will provide an opportunity to educate, engage, and empower underserved women of African American and Caribbean descent to seek free consultation and mammography services in efforts to prevent breast cancer,” said Winifred Wilkins Thompson, PhD, MSW, Principal Investigator for the Komen Project and Research Assistant Professor at Emory University.

This project has the potential of reaching the broader community of African American and Caribbean women while promoting breast health and breast cancer screening.

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#### **About The Atlanta Jamaican Association, Inc.**

The Atlanta Jamaican Association (AJA) is a non-profit organization established to promote friendship, unity, and understanding between Jamaicans and the members of the greater Atlanta community. The organization was founded in 1977 and incorporated on September 13, 1978 as a non-profit organization. The AJA is one of the longest serving and most experienced Caribbean organizations in the Atlanta area. The AJA provides a forum for Jamaicans in Atlanta to discuss strategies for improving their lives in addition to assisting the underserved both in Jamaica and the Atlanta area.

[www.ajaatlanta.org](http://www.ajaatlanta.org)

#### **About Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta Affiliate**

Komen Atlanta is the local resource for breast cancer screening, diagnostic and support services. Through events, including the Race for the Cure, and contributions, the Affiliate raises funds to enable women to detect and survive breast cancer. Seventy-five percent of all funds stay in Atlanta to provide breast health services for women who could not otherwise afford them. Twenty-five percent supports national research efforts of finding a cure. Komen Atlanta has raised more than \$35 million since its inception in 1991. The Affiliate is part of the national Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, which strives to save lives and end breast cancer forever. Komen is the largest private funder in the fight against breast cancer and has invested nearly \$2 billion toward the cause.

[www.komenatlanta.org](http://www.komenatlanta.org)

#### **About Emory University**

Emory University located in Atlanta, GA is internationally renowned for its' outstanding liberal arts colleges and various graduate and professional schools. Emory University also possesses

one of the Southeast's leading health care systems. Emory maintains an uncommon balance for an institution of its' standing where the university scholars and experts generate more than \$572 million in research funding annually, while also maintaining a traditional emphasis on teaching. The university is enriched by its' collaboration among its' various schools, centers, and partners.  
[www.emory.edu](http://www.emory.edu)

### **About Grady**

Grady Health System is one of the largest health care systems in the U.S. Grady is committed to providing quality, compassionate care to underserved residents of Fulton and DeKalb counties in the greater Atlanta area. Additionally, Grady offers a full range of specialized medical services including the region's premier level 1 trauma center, Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence, and a Diabetes Center for all segments of the community.  
[www.gradyhealth.org](http://www.gradyhealth.org)