Race for the Cure

The Race for the Cure series is Komen Idaho Montana’s largest fundraiser. We host races in Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Missoula. There isn’t a time of year that Race is being planned or executed. In 2019, the three Races showed great success:

- Boise: 4,104 participants, 389 survivors, $56,145.75 raised by individual contributions
- Coeur d’Alene: 529 participants, 52 survivors, $7,636.44 raised by individual contributions
- Missoula: 527 participants, 68 survivors, $13,164.69 raised by individual contributions

The Missoula Race for the Cure showed the greatest year over year growth with a 15% increase in participation and a 46% increase in individual giving from 2018.

Advocacy – Federal

In May, Komen Idaho Montana representatives joined the rest of the Komen team from across the country for Komen Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. The Idaho Montana met with legislators serving in the House and Senate from Idaho and Montana. The issues we were working on included:

- Ensuring access to breast health services by properly funding The National Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program.
- Investing in the cancer treatments of tomorrow by ensuring funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Nation Cancer Institute.
- Increasing access to diagnostic breast imaging by ensuring it is covered under insurance at the same rate of screening imaging.
- Reducing insurance barriers to treatment by supporting oral chemotherapy parity legislation.

Advocacy – Idaho

In Idaho we teamed up with other local cancer organizations to support oral chemotherapy parity legislation. Senate Bill 1034 sponsored by Sen. Lori Den Hartog passed the Idaho State Senate on March 5 with a 28-7 vote. Unfortunately, the bill met its demise in the Idaho House of Representatives as it was never heard by the House Health & Welfare Committee.
Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference – Missoula

On May 31st, we held our first Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference in Missoula. The conference was intended for those living with Metastatic Breast Cancer and their caregivers. We had 46 people registered for the event from all over North Idaho and Montana. Thanks to generous sponsorship we were able to help cover the travel and hotel expenses for all participants who had significant travel to attend the conference.

The evening before the conference, participants had an opportunity to participate in an art event hosted by Living Art Montana. This was also an opportunity for attendees to meet each other and start to get to know one another.

On the day of the conference, attendees heard from Dr. Alana Welm from Huntsman Cancer Institute on her advances in Metastatic Breast Cancer research. Attendees also heard from local providers on topics such as clinical trials, balancing hope and fear, caregiver distress, fighting fatigue, and much more. Attendees also had time to get to know each other and start a network of support.

MBC Dinner Series – Boise

We host a dinner series for those living with Metastatic Breast Cancer and their caregivers twice a year in the Boise area. At each dinner series event participants hear from a local expert on a related topic. The April event, held at the Hilton Garden Inn Boise Spectrum, had 45 registered participants who heard from Dr. William Bollinger about Palliative Care. The September event, held at the Stonehouse Event Center, had 61 registered guests who heard from Dr. Joe Gray about Metastatic Breast Cancer Research.

Dr. Gray Research Day

In September we were honored to host Dr. Joe Gray from the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health Sciences University for a day of research. Dr. Gray was also joined by his wife, Jane, who is currently living with Metastatic Breast Cancer.

Dr. Gray did an interview with KTVB before speaking about his research and clinical trial at a lunch event. The lunch event, held at the Courtyard by Marriott Boise West/Meridian, had 75 registered participants. After lunch Dr. Gray spoke with students at Boise State University as part of the new Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. program. Dr. Gray used that opportunity to hopefully inspire new cancer researchers. He ended his day speaking to Metastatic Breast Cancer patients and their caregivers at the dinner series event.

Office Move

In November the Komen Idaho Montana office relocated to a new location in Boise. The new office provides a more comprehensive space to meet the needs of the staff and visitors. A more visible street front location makes the new office easier to find and is more centrally located in the Treasure Valley. The new office also provides substantial financial savings year over year.
Grants

In 2019 Komen Idaho Montana provided over $76,000 in Community Grants to twelve organizations in Idaho and Montana.

St. Luke Community Health Care Foundation | Breast Health for the Flathead Reservation $6,000
North Canyon Medical Center | Rural Care for Low to Middle Income Women $5,049
Panhandle Health District | Breast Education and Screening for Early Detection $10,680
St. Luke's Magic Valley Health Foundation | Treasure Chest Project $4,000
Terry Reilly Health Services | Terry Reilly Screening Ada Canyon Owyhee $3,936
Desert Sage Health Centers | Changing the Path $1,800
Minidoka Memorial Hospital | Minidoka County’s Primary Defense Against Breast Cancer $4,755
Community Cancer Services | Provide Gas Vouchers $2,700
Family Health Services | Increase Access to Mammogram Program $7,920
Madison Memorial Hospital | Brake for Breakfast & Mammograms $5,400
St. Luke’s Mountain States Tumor Institute | Concrete Needs During Breast Cancer Treatment $4,000

Komen Idaho Montana also provided financial support to:

- Mending in the Mountains
- Silver Lining Foundation
- Women 4 Wellness
- The Hospital Cooperative

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