

# **Komen Idaho Montana Affiliate Close**

## **FAQs**

### **Q: What is happening at Komen?**

A: In April 2020, Susan G. Komen® announced that it is consolidating the entire national independent affiliate network and creating One Komen. It is also transitioning to a completely remote workforce. The goal: centralize operations for efficiency and refocus the mission on research, advocacy and national patient programs that are not limited to the geographic boundaries of the existing affiliate network.

### **Q: What does this mean for Komen Idaho Montana?**

A: The recent decision by Komen Headquarters to centralize operations and refocus its mission on research, advocacy, and national patient programs is their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and downward trend in giving. The merger of affiliates into one larger Komen organization is a process that has been going on since April of 2020 and will continue throughout 2021. Unfortunately, the national Komen organization decided that smaller affiliates with less financial reach no longer had a place in the larger organization. The Komen Idaho Montana Affiliate will cease operation on March 28, 2021.

### **Q: Why is Komen Idaho Montana making these decisions instead of consolidating?**

A: Komen HQ decided that Komen Idaho Montana did not bring enough money to the table to make it worth their time to consolidate. Komen Idaho Montana Board and Staff wanted to ensure that all the money raised by the local Affiliate stayed in Idaho and Montana. The decision to cease operations will enable us to honor donor intent and direct our contribution as we have promised.

### **Q: Can we change this outcome?**

A: No. Consolidation of the Komen affiliate network is underway, and individual affiliates do not have the option to continue to operate as they always have.

### **Q: Is this big change happening in other communities too?**

A: Yes. Many other Affiliates have made similar decisions in their communities. Some of the larger revenue Affiliates have merged into One Komen while other Affiliates have ceased operations for various reasons.

### **Q: Will Idaho and Montana still have a Race for the Cure, Metastatic Breast Cancer Conferences, and other community events in the future?**

A: That is for Komen HQ to decide but is unlikely anytime soon.

### **Q: What is happening to the money that was raised during the Race for the Cure and other 2020 events?**

A: Komen Idaho Montana's priority has always been our local breast cancer community, and it is our priority in this transition. From money raised during the Race for the Cure events, third-party events, and other giving, we will provide community gifts to our long-time and trusted partners. These organizations prioritize the most vulnerable breast cancer and metastatic breast cancer community members and provide treatment assistance, screenings, and diagnostic services.

### **Q: What will Komen Idaho Montana do with the rest of its money?**

A: In addition to providing the community gifts described above, we paid off a few liabilities, including

our office lease. We also gave a modest severance to staff. Remaining funds will go to Komen HQ to support research and the Treatment Assistance Program.

**Q: Will Komen HQ continue to fund grants for screenings and diagnostics services in this area?**

A: Komen HQ is working on a screening program, the details have yet to be finalized. It is unlikely that the community grant structure as we know it will continue.

**Q: Who will do the work Komen Idaho Montana has been doing for decades?**

A: While Komen Idaho Montana was a unifying force, a community partner, investor, and powerful advocate, we believe our trusted community partners will find ways to keep doing this work, but they will need help.

**Q: How will fundraising continue in Idaho and Montana?**

A: Komen HQ will decide which markets host fundraising events such as Race for the Cure.

**Q: How can I continue to support the breast cancer community?**

A: The Komen mission remains unchanged, and the national organization will continue to address community needs through national programs, including but not limited to, the Treatment Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance for people undergoing breast cancer treatment, and the national hotline (1-877-GO KOMEN).

**Q: How can I continue to directly support the breast cancer community in Idaho and Montana?**

A: We are fortunate to have a number of trusted community organizations and excellent treatment centers. You can continue to give directly to them and volunteer with them.

## Questions from Komen Idaho Montana Townhalls

**Q: Can current Komen Idaho Montana grantees apply for an extension on their funding?**

A: Yes! Grantees that currently have funding from Komen Idaho Montana should reach out to Emily Richards, ASAP, to discuss your options. Email her at [erichards@komenidahomontana.org](mailto:erichards@komenidahomontana.org).

**Q: What type of support/assistance will be available through the national Treatment Assistance Program?**

A: Here are all the details about the Komen Treatment Assistance Program:  
<https://www.komen.org/treatment-assistance-program/>

**Q: Jodi and Emily what are your future plans?**

A: Jodi and Emily have both committed to working with respect and integrity in closing the local Affiliate. After March 28 the future is unknown and wide open for both of them.

**Q: What is happening to other state Komen sites?**

A: Many other Affiliates have made similar decisions in their communities. Some of the larger revenue Affiliates have merged into One Komen while other Affiliates have ceased operations for various reasons.

**Q: When will this be announced to the Boise community?**

A: This information is public as of 2/2/2021. It is posted on social media, web site, and a mass email was sent out. Public interviews will be considered as requested.

**Q: Is this information for sharing?**

A: Yes, you can share this information.