our mission

No one has our story, our spirit, our record or our network. We are unique in our mission: to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.

1  Impact: Making a difference
2  Innovate: Discovering the cures
4  Initiate: Empowering our communities
6  Ignite: Advocating for change
8  Increase: Expanding our reach
10 Invest: Funding the cures
12 Inspire: Leading a movement
In 2008...

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® provided an unprecedented $100 million for scientific research and granted $193 million for life-saving education, awareness, screening, treatment and support programs around the world.

We launched the Promise Grants program, an innovative approach to research funding with multi-million dollar grants requiring collaboration across disciplines and emphasizing rapid delivery of scientific discoveries to patients.

We established the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Advocacy Alliance as our voice for change on Capitol Hill, in state legislatures and on the campaign trail as we sought increased funding for research and greater access to screening and treatment.

We traveled to the far corners of the world to bring hope and help to women who had little of either. We armed a network of global breast cancer advocates from the Middle East to Latin America with the tools necessary to fight this disease in their own countries, and established the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Global Promise Fund to pay for breast cancer programs and services in countries that otherwise would go without.

We welcomed more than 250 corporate partners and sponsors to our cause, reaching new audiences with the message that early detection saves lives. Thanks to our partners’ events, products and programs we were able to invest an additional $59 million in discovering and delivering the cures this year. Our largest partner in 2008 was the golf program Rally for the Cure®, which raised more than $8 million with the help of 3,200 Rally Ambassadors.

Nearly two million men, women and children put one foot in front of the other in the United States, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Latin America — running and walking in unison to end breast cancer forever in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® Series and the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

And in 2008, as we have every year since we started in 1982, we made an impact in people’s lives. We raised $368 million in revenue and carefully invested those dollars in critical, life-saving research that will bring us one step closer to ending breast cancer. And, we helped people in cities, towns, remote villages and rural farms across the globe get the care they need.

This year’s annual report is a celebration of those successes and the tide of progress that has characterized Susan G. Komen for the Cure since Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker founded Komen in 1982.

Nancy’s promise to her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, to end breast cancer forever is as vital today as the day she made that promise.

The organization she founded in her Dallas living room with a shoebox full of names is today the world’s largest and most effective breast cancer organization, funding the cures, engaging and empowering people and working relentlessly for the day when her promise is fulfilled.
In laboratories and hospitals all around the world, scientists and doctors are unlocking the secrets of breast cancer with funding from Komen for the Cure. Komen is the largest funder of breast cancer research outside of the U.S. government, investing more than $400 million in cancer research since 1983 — part of our more than $1.3 billion investment in research, awareness, education, screening, treatment and support programs since we began.

Research is the cornerstone of Komen’s commitment to end suffering from breast cancer on a global scale, and we won’t let troubled economies deter us from this mission in 2009.

Today, Komen is focused on innovative research that has the best chance of reducing breast cancer incidence and mortality over the next decade. To spur this innovation, in 2008 Komen expanded the research program to launch Promise Grants — multi-million dollar, multi-year grants requiring collaboration between institutions, scientists, clinical researchers and advocates with an emphasis on delivering what they learn to patients more quickly.

Our goal is to build on Komen’s investments in research that have lead to dramatic and life-saving advances that touch the lives of those with breast cancer, including:

- Discovery that breast cancer is not one disease but many, each with different characteristics that allow doctors to deliver tailored treatments that are more effective and involve fewer side effects.
- The role of hormonal factors in breast cancer risk, development and progression that lead to a greater understanding of tamoxifen resistance, tools to identify women who are more likely to develop resistance and development of new hormonal therapies such as aromatase inhibitors.
- Understanding the role of angiogenesis in providing the blood supply that allows cancer cells to continue to grow and leading to discovery of drugs like Avastin that kill cancer cells by starving them of their blood supply.
- Discovery of signaling pathways “turned on” by the over-expression of HER2 receptors on some very aggressive breast cancers and the role of kinase inhibitors as potential therapeutic agents with fewer adverse effects than Herceptin.
- Identifying a gene that promotes metastasis in 30 to 40 percent of breast cancers, opening the door for development of drugs to stop breast cancer’s lethal spread.
- Discovery of new early detection systems such as Molecular Breast Imaging which provides a three-dimensional image of the breast, unmasking potential lesions that can be hidden in traditional two-dimensional views.
tackling the aggressive cancers

Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC)

It is a rare (just 1 to 5 percent of cases) and baffling form of breast cancer that often goes undiagnosed until it is far advanced. Inflammatory breast cancer doesn’t typically present with a lump. It often looks like a skin rash and is diagnosed as an infection, striking younger women whose general risk for breast cancer is considered low. It grows and spreads rapidly to other organs and may only be detected after it has already spread.

It is also the focus of one of Komen’s first Promise Grants, funded by corporate partner American Airlines, awarded to the world-renowned M.D. Anderson Inflammatory Breast Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

There, Komen is funding a cross-functional team of researchers and clinicians that is exploring the biologic basis of IBC, searching for ways to detect it early, finding out how it grows and spreads, and providing therapies that can stop it.

The team began work in August 2008 and early results are promising. The grant includes clinical trials to test the efficacy of potential treatments, and the group is engaged in programs to increase awareness of IBC more broadly in the medical community.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

Scientists have learned about and developed effective treatments for breast cancers with “receptors” that respond favorably to targeted treatments. But about 15 percent of breast cancers are considered “triple negative,” that is, they don’t have the receptors — estrogen, progesterone or HER2 — that respond to current targeted treatments.

And while TNBC comprises just 15 percent of breast cancer cases, it accounts for 25 percent of all breast cancer deaths. It is aggressive, resistant to current treatments and more common in young (premenopausal) African-American women. It is also a target of a new Komen Promise Grant, and a new partnership with the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation to fund new research.

In 2009, the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBCF) is committing $500,000 toward a TNBC-focused Promise Grant — the first time a nonprofit partner has co-funded a grant with Komen. This project is testing a novel treatment that “turns on” death receptors on the surface of negative cancer cells.
Since our beginning, we have contributed more than $1.3 billion to the breast cancer fight — for research, yes, but also to programs in our communities that directly impact the lives of women in those communities. Our 122 domestic and three international Affiliates are a tremendous resource, tapping the power of their communities to make a difference down the street or around the world.

Up to 75 percent of the funds raised by our Affiliates through events like the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure — the world’s largest and most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer — stays in their communities. The rest is administered through Komen Headquarters for research programs (many in the communities our Affiliates serve). In 2008, some $193 million was channeled from Affiliates and Komen Headquarters for outreach, awareness, education, screening, treatment and support programs in individual communities.

These community programs educate people about the risk factors for breast cancer. They empower women to seek screening. They target diverse populations with culturally sensitive outreach programs. Komen Affiliates help fund mammogram centers and awareness campaigns. They advocate for underserved people in their communities. They provide the funds that help women get transportation to treatment, and programs that help pay for groceries for women who are too sick to get to the store themselves. A few examples from our vast pool of local success stories include:
• Komen’s Hawaii Affiliate funds a clinic on the island of Moloka‘i, Hawaii, home to 7,400 residents, 62 percent of them Native Hawaiian or of Hawaiian ancestry, a population group with the highest breast cancer incidence and mortality rates in Hawaii. The Komen Hawaii Affiliate saw a great need on Moloka‘i, which faces extreme poverty and numerous barriers to care such as geographic location, lack of insurance and limited cancer knowledge. The Affiliate now funds the island’s only location for breast cancer services like screening, treatment and support.

• Komen Affiliates in Nevada mobilized to provide help to breast cancer patients being turned away from a Las Vegas “safety net” hospital that treated the uninsured and underinsured, in the wake of significant budget constraints brought on by the economic downturn. Komen Affiliates in New York, California, Michigan and Alabama similarly turned back cuts in breast programs in their states.

• Affiliates in Texas successfully advocated in the Texas Legislature to gain $3 billion over 10 years for cancer research and services.

• In rural communities across the country, programs like those funded by the Komen Greater Cincinnati Affiliate increase access to free breast cancer screenings by removing barriers to care like cost, distance and fear.

Targeting Disparities

While the breast cancer death rate for women in the U.S. is 24.0 per 100,000, some communities experience death rates much higher. Furthermore, certain racial and ethnic groups, the uninsured and low-income women are more likely to die of breast cancer.

In order to lower death rates in these communities, we are working to close the gaps that exist in our nation’s healthcare system in new and innovative ways. For example, in Chicago we funded a $1 million grant for the creation of the Illinois Breast Cancer Quality Consortium, which is working to improve the quality of breast cancer screening and diagnosis and treatment among Chicago’s African American community. This population group’s mortality rate is a staggering 68 percent higher when compared to white women.* By closing the gaps to care, lives will be saved.

In addition, in Washington, D.C., examples of just two of the life-saving programs and services we’re funding to eliminate gaps in the system are:

• A patient navigator at the Muslim Community Center and Health Clinic. The navigator follows up with every woman seen at the clinic to make sure she gets a mammogram and ensures that anyone with an abnormal screening receives timely follow-up.

• A clinic that removes cultural and linguistic barriers for women, providing much-needed quality care. Arlington Free Clinic is the community’s only provider of free, comprehensive breast health services, offering a full continuum of care from education and screening to cancer treatment and on going care during survivorship. Thanks to this grant, women with cancer receive full medical services (e.g. radiology, surgery, oncology, anesthesiology, pathology), as well as timely assistance for transportation, child care and short-term financial aid.

Breast cancer battles aren’t fought solely in the lab or the clinic. People everywhere need a voice advocating for them at the local, state and federal levels. Susan G. Komen for the Cure has been that voice for 27 years.

Komen has built the nation’s largest grassroots network of breast cancer advocates and activists — some 200,000 enthusiastic, active and engaged women and men who over the years have helped increase cancer research funding, ensure standards for mammography and access to clinical trials for poor women, and assure funding for breast programs in our states.

In 2008, we formalized that effort with the launch of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance, our 501(c)(4) sister organization, based in Washington, D.C.

In the face of unprecedented economic challenges, the Advocacy Alliance is engaging the Obama Administration, Congress and the cancer community to ensure that breast cancer issues are being addressed in research, access to screening and treatment, and funding to close the gaps in healthcare.

An early indicator of the power of this movement: Komen’s call for action on the new federal budget and the economic stimulus package generated 40,000 letters to Congress in just a few days!

As we navigate a new political landscape, we will stay true to our principles to advocate in financially responsible and pragmatic ways.

Our mission remains the same: to translate our promise to end breast cancer forever into action at all levels of government to discover and deliver the cures.
I Vote for the Cure®

During the early days of the presidential campaign in August 2007, we launched a campaign of our own. The I Vote for the Cure initiative began in an effort to get candidates at all levels to make breast cancer a priority in their campaigns and for our country. The movement was aimed at rallying voter registration, educating voters on the issues and challenging candidates to support achievable goals that will save lives.

More than 110,000 people signed an I Vote for the Cure petition that led to both presidential nominees responding to our questionnaire about their cancer priorities. We also registered new voters in more than 70 cities.

Komen Community Challenge

The Komen Community Challenge was a nationwide grassroots advocacy tour designed to re-ignite the urgency of the breast cancer movement in 2007 and 2008. We engaged elected officials as we hosted rallies, town halls, roundtables, lobby days and education events in communities across the country.

As a result of these efforts, the Komen Community Challenge and Komen Affiliates helped add $72 million to state breast cancer screening programs, helping women with little to no access to screening or treatment get the care they need.

Two such examples occurred in New Mexico and South Carolina. New Mexico authorized an additional $500,000 for its state’s breast and cervical cancer early detection program, and South Carolina authorized $2 million for the Best Chance Network (BCN), providing the first-ever state funding for the breast and cervical cancer screening and prevention program.

Because of this additional money, 9,000 more women received access to early detection services, greatly increasing their chances of survival. Previously, the program served only women aged 47 and older. The additional funding in South Carolina allowed reduction of the eligibility age to 40, which is consistent with national guidelines for annual mammography screening.

We Must Close the Gaps

At the federal level, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is a very important federal program that enables millions access to important screening and treatment every year. However, for every woman screened through this program, four eligible women go unscreened. Moreover, there is a dangerous gap in the law that allows states to deny women access to Medicaid for their treatment based solely on where their screening takes place.

Consider the case of Shirley Loewe, an uninsured Texas hairdresser. She made the mistake of getting diagnosed at a medical center that was not sanctioned as part of the program. For four years, Loewe wandered through the maze of regulations trying to get the assistance she would otherwise have received. In September 2007, Texas law was amended so women like Loewe would no longer be denied assistance. Sadly, she didn’t live long enough to benefit from the change.

As Loewe’s daughter, Niko Ferguson, explains in a Wall Street Journal cover story, “Her story speaks volumes to the world and to government officials about what it is really like for people who feel helpless and don’t know where to turn.” We share Ferguson’s determination to shine a light on gaps such as the one that robbed her mother of care and to correct them.
Ending breast cancer around the world

We’ve made a great deal of progress in breast cancer in the United States, but in many other areas of the world breast cancer incidence is increasing and deaths from breast cancer are unacceptably high. Worldwide, more than 1 million women will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year, with rates increasing sharply in developing nations. Susan G. Komen for the Cure has begun a sustained global campaign against breast cancer, uniting experts in-country with global health resources to end this disease wherever we find it.

Every 68 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.*

Our global outreach began a decade ago with research, and since 1999 we have invested more than $30 million in international breast cancer research and education outreach programs in more than 50 countries.

In 2007, we stepped up our global efforts by launching the Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness, a program now active in nine countries in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America. With Komen Affiliates already established in Italy, Germany and Puerto Rico, this new initiative aims to create a dynamic global network of dedicated activists with the skills, knowledge and vision to play a strategic role in shaping their country’s response to the breast cancer crisis. At the core of the program is Course for the Cure™, a series of training modules that are based on Komen’s experience in breast cancer awareness and advocacy.

“As a health professional, I believe I have a role that is as important as the doctor’s: the role of the educator,” says Eliane Sa Brito, a 46-year-old psychologist and mother of two who helps cancer patients through the emotional and psychological process of sickness and healing. Through her Course for the Cure training in her homeland of Brazil, she hopes to “help transform cancer patients into active agents and survivors.”

Beyond Course for the Cure, in 2008 we also established the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Promise Fund to raise funds specifically for global breast cancer programs. Funds will provide support and make a sustainable impact in countries on six of the world’s seven continents.

With cancer rates growing globally, and especially in low- and middle-income countries, our mission is to work to end breast cancer forever, all around the world.

*Based on 2008 American Cancer Society Facts & Figures.
New avenues for the cures

Education and awareness are key weapons in the fight against breast cancer. Communication among doctors, advocates, researchers, patients, potential patients and diverse communities is essential. To reach as many people as possible with as much information as possible, Susan G. Komen for the Cure reaches out in person, online, in print and through national programs and collaborative partnerships, including:

**Educational resources:** an extensive selection from instructional videos to printed materials in at least 10 different languages for a variety of population groups and reading levels.

[www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org): education, awareness, advocacy, support and networking opportunities exist on komen.org, which underwent a significant redesign in 2008.

**Komen on the Go™:** mobile outreach tour that takes breast cancer education on the road to colleges and community events, reaching young women and new audiences.

**American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO):** a collaborative effort between Komen and ASCO aimed at positively impacting the quality of cancer care in the United States.

**American Association for Cancer Research (AACR):** a collaborative effort between Komen and AACR that focuses on finding ways to prevent cancer and providing access for patients and researchers.

**Triple Negative Breast Cancer “Think Tank”:** engaging dozens of TNBC medical professionals and advocates to step up awareness and research.

**Medscape:** a collaborative effort between Komen and online continuing medical education portal Medscape to provide healthcare professionals with information about the latest advances in treatment and early detection.

**Young Survivor Conference:** a collaborative conference co-sponsored by Komen, Living Beyond Breast Cancer and the Young Survivor Coalition.

**Social Networking:** tapping the limitless potential of the online community through social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and others, where Komen enjoys a growing fan base.

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Eliminating Disparities

Despite significant progress, there are still large numbers of women in the United States for whom it seems time has stood still. Consider this:

- African-American women have a 35 percent higher breast cancer death rate than Caucasian women, even though they are less likely to get breast cancer.*
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for Latinas.
- Uninsured and low-income women are less likely to be screened for breast cancer.
- Native American women are the least likely of any ethnic group to be alive five years or longer after a breast cancer diagnosis.
- Women in rural areas often suffer from lack of facilities for screening or treatment.

Just one way we’re attacking these issues is through research. Our disparities grants are far-reaching. For example, we’re funding a study that could lead to the detection of breast cancer in pre-cancerous stages in African Americans, which could potentially reduce mortality rates among this population group.

Another way we’re addressing disparities is through programs like Circle of Promise, a targeted breast cancer education and awareness campaign we launched in 2008 that focuses on the African American community.

National Advisory Councils

With these gaps in mind, Komen formed advisory councils to address the breast health needs of people from different cultures and backgrounds in the United States. They include the:

- African American National Advisory Council
- National Hispanic & Latina Advisory Council
- Asian American & Pacific Islander National Advisory Council
- American Indian & Alaska Native National Advisory Council
- Young Women’s National Advisory Council
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender National Advisory Council

*Based on 2008 American Cancer Society Facts & Figures.
Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world’s largest source of nonprofit funds for breast cancer — second only to the U.S. government. To date, we have invested more than $1.3 billion in breast cancer research and community outreach programs.

Thanks to the millions of individuals who support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® Series, it continues to be our leading source of funds in the fight against breast cancer, providing more than $1 billion to date. Economists also tell us that Komen-funded research and programs saved 4,500 American lives in 2007 alone, and our cause-related marketing and partnership programs had an economic impact of almost $300 million.*

We are careful stewards of the money our donors entrust in our care, earning the respected Charity Navigator four-star rating in both 2007 and 2008. In Fiscal Year 2008, we devoted 87 cents of every dollar to our mission.

### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

**DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS**

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<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Cash and Investments</td>
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<td>37,495</td>
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<td>2,705</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>3,556</td>
<td>2,529</td>
<td>2,214</td>
<td>3,048</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$185,842</td>
<td>$238,152</td>
<td>$316,879</td>
<td>$390,167</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td>$9,876</td>
<td>$7,725</td>
<td>$11,741</td>
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<td>Grants payable</td>
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<td>110,764</td>
<td>140,525</td>
<td>176,707</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>148,250</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>65,202</td>
<td>89,902</td>
<td>128,431</td>
<td>129,708</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>$185,842</td>
<td>$238,152</td>
<td>$316,879</td>
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### Consolidated Statement of Activities

**YEARS ENDED MARCH 31**

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<tr>
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<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Komen Race for the Cure</td>
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<td>Other Public Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Gross Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Less Komen Race for the Cure Direct Costs</td>
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<td>$(19,505)</td>
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<td><strong>Net Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAM SERVICES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>64,403</td>
<td>98,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>98,599</td>
<td>134,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>33,114</td>
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<td>Treatment</td>
<td>18,241</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
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<td>292,571</td>
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<td><strong>SUPPORTING SERVICES</strong></td>
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<td>General Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>347,858</td>
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<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>38,529</td>
<td>1,277</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year</strong></td>
<td>$89,902</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$128,431</td>
<td>$129,708</td>
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Ernst & Young, LLP performed the 2004-2008 consolidated audits for Komen. To review our audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990, please visit komen.org.
Leading a global breast cancer movement requires a strong team effort. Susan G. Komen for the Cure is fortunate to have a board of directors and senior leadership team with depth and a singular determination to lead the way.

**Board of Directors**

The Honorable Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Cheryl Jernigan  
*Affiliate Network Representative*

Norman Brinker

Linda Custard

Aimee DiCicco

Brenda Lauderback

Clifton Leaf

Connie O’Neill

Robert Taylor

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**Senior Leadership Team**

Hala Moddelmog  
*President and CEO*

Kimberly Simpson Earle  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Susan Carter Johns  
*Vice President and Chief of Staff*

Emily Callahan  
*Vice President, Marketing*

Annetta Hewko  
*Vice President, Global Strategy and Programs*

Wendeline Jongenburger  
*Vice President, Affiliate Relations*

Katrina McGhee  
*Vice President, Global Partnerships*

Justin Ricketts  
*Vice President, Information Technology*

Diana Rowden  
*Vice President, Health Sciences*
Thank you to our partners for their investment in the cures.

As one of the early pioneers of cause marketing, Susan G. Komen for the Cure takes great pride in the partnerships we have formed over the years with more than 250 companies, corporations and organizations, all of whom share our passion for ending breast cancer. Each has found a unique way to involve their customers, clients and employees in raising awareness, dollars and hope so that one day soon we will find the cures. We thank them for their commitment to our vision of a world without breast cancer.

**Million Dollar Council Elite**

The Komen Million Dollar Council Elite is a special group of sponsors and partners who have committed to invest a financial contribution of $1 million annually in the fight to end breast cancer. Each of these organizations has found new and innovative ways to raise awareness about breast cancer and encourage people from all walks of life to get involved in finding the cures. We thank them for their generous support.

**Million Dollar Council**

With deepest appreciation, we recognize the Komen Million Dollar Council. As of March 2008, each of these companies, brands or organizations had invested at least $1 million in our mission to end breast cancer over the lifetime of their partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure.