

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAVE-THE-DATE: WOMEN'S HEALTH COMMUNITY EVENT IN ROGERS PARK!

Sept 23, 2011 – A women's community health event will be held on **Thursday, October 20th from 11am to 1pm at Zeenat Banquet Hall (6424 N. Western Ave.)**. Attendance is free and open to women only. This event will educate women from the Muslim and South Asian communities on the importance of breast health and early detection to prevent breast cancer. Information on breast health and demonstrations will be provided in English, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarati. In addition, those attending will also learn how to obtain free mammograms.

"We are making this event open to women only because we want this to be a safe space for women to come together and learn about how to take better care of themselves. It is well-documented that Asian women have the lowest rates of breast screening (mammogram) and this problem is further worsened by the fact that minority groups, including Indian and Pakistani women, are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of breast cancer," said Sima Qurashi, Executive Director of MWRC and Santosh Kumar, Executive Directors of MAFS, in a joint statement.

This event is being organized as part of the ***Pink Pashmina Project***, which is an innovative program to increase breast health awareness and encourage more South Asian and Muslim women to get mammograms. The ***Pink Pashmina Project*** is a partnership of the Asian Health Coalition, along with Muslim Women Resource Center (MWRC) and Metropolitan Asian Family Services (MAFS).

Admission is open to the women from the general public and lunch will be served but pre-registration is required due to limited seating. Women who want to attend should call and pre-register with:

Metropolitan Asian Family Services
773-465-3105 ext 14 (Ms Saba)

Muslim Women's Resource Center
773-764-1686 (Ms Bouchra)

Support for this event has been made possible through funding from Komen for the Cure® and the University of Chicago's Office of Community Engagement and Cancer Disparities.

Asian Health Coalition (AHC): AHC is a non-profit healthcare agency established in 1996, with a mission to improve the health and wellness of the Asian American community through advocacy, technical assistance, public and community-based education and research. Visit www.asianhealth.org.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and the Komen Chicagoland Affiliate: The Chicagoland Area Affiliate is part of the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. Through events like the Komen Chicago Race for the Cure, the Chicagoland Area Affiliate has invested nearly \$11 million in community breast cancer programs in 5-counties. Up to 75% of net proceeds generated by the Affiliate stays in the Chicagoland Area. The remaining 25% funds national breast cancer research.

Office of Community Engagement and Cancer Disparities (OCECD): The OCECD fosters strategic alliances with the University of Chicago entities and healthcare groups, as well as community, ethnic, and faith-based organizations, to increase cancer knowledge in the community and engage participation in research and clinical trials.