



The MetroHealth Foundation  
2500 MetroHealth Drive  
Cleveland OH 44109-1998

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
September 10, 2009

**Contact:** Kristen Boyne  
216-778-2541  
or [kboyne@metrohealth.org](mailto:kboyne@metrohealth.org)

### **MetroHealth Receives Major Gift for Breast Cancer Detection**

(Cleveland, Ohio) – Early detection is the key to beating breast cancer. But MetroHealth's Cancer Care Center sees more women with advanced breast cancer than is the average for Ohio hospitals, according to the National Cancer Data Bank. That's why the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.® (NBCF) has awarded a \$75,000 grant to MetroHealth's breast cancer outreach program - to bring mammograms and early detection to as many Cleveland women as possible.

MetroHealth's BRinging Education, Advocacy, and Support Together (BREAST) program, founded in 2005, provides free clinical breast examinations and mammograms for uninsured and underinsured, low-income, minority women over 35. These screening services are made available to women in easily accessible community locations, such as churches. The remaining spectrum of breast health care (diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship) is provided at MetroHealth at a reduced cost through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, MetroHealth's Community Discount Program or funding from Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Northeast Ohio. NBCF funds will be used to cover the cost of screening and diagnostic mammograms and ultrasounds for these underserved women.

"We are truly grateful for this money from the National Breast Cancer Foundation," said Jean Stevenson, M.D., director of the BREAST program. "With current economic times, the number of uninsured women continues to grow, and women cannot afford the \$100 it costs to get a mammogram. This important funding will help us reach more women in need who would otherwise not be served."

"We are proud to fund MetroHealth's BREAST program because of their caring outreach to the needy," said Janelle Hail, founder and CEO of National Breast Cancer Foundation. "With the unprecedented economic needs of Ohio, MetroHealth is the only safety-net hospital in Northeast Ohio that meets the challenge of assistance to underserved women."

Since the BREAST program's inception, more than 1,100 have received clinical breast examinations and more than 1,200 women have received mammograms. Additionally, appointments were scheduled to provide follow-up services to 143 women with abnormal breast exams. The program's overall objective is to improve breast health and identify breast cancer in earlier stages in order to increase women's chances of survival.

**The MetroHealth System** is one of the nation's largest public health providers, ranking in the top 1% of all hospitals nationwide for quality in patient care. As the region's only Level I trauma and burn center, MetroHealth is a nationally-recognized leader in critical care and rehabilitation, community health, high-risk perinatal care, and senior health. MetroHealth offers the region's largest urban-based network of community health centers focused on reducing health disparities through comprehensive care to vulnerable populations. Founded in 1837, MetroHealth has been a major affiliate of Case Western Reserve University since 1914 and all MetroHealth physicians are CWRU faculty. For more information on The MetroHealth System, visit [www.metrohealth.org](http://www.metrohealth.org).

**National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. ®** (NBCF) is committed to spreading knowledge and fostering hope in the fight against breast cancer. Their mission is to save lives through early detection and to provide mammograms for those in need, which includes increasing awareness through education, providing diagnostic breast care services for those in need, and providing nurturing support services. For more information on NBCF, visit [www.nbcf.org](http://www.nbcf.org).