The American Cancer Society provides support to breast cancer patients in Dallas County by offering transportation to treatment at no cost to uninsured and underinsured patients. Services are accessed through a collaborative network of cancer treatment centers and American Cancer Society resource centers. Through their network of community resources, American Cancer Society staff helps connect patients with information, emotional support and help with day-to-day needs throughout their breast cancer journey.

Irving Healthcare Foundation, in partnership with Baylor Medical Center at Irving, Texas Oncology, the Women’s Imaging Center and the Surgical Group of North Texas, is in the second year of a breast health services program for Irving residents to provide educational outreach, charity mammograms and breast cancer treatment for low-income women that are uninsured or underinsured. Designed to address the entire breast cancer continuum of care from screening to diagnosis to treatment, this program aims to reduce the number of late stage breast cancers in Irving and Dallas County. Irving Healthcare Foundation and its partners will help increase screening rates for an at-risk population in Dallas County in an effort to find breast cancer early and in its most treatable stages.

Through this grant, Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic (LBUCC) will expand upon its breast health efforts, creating a comprehensive, patient-centered breast health program for low-income, predominantly Hispanic female patients. The clinic intends to decrease the disparities in access to breast health prevention and care faced by its patient community. This program will increase the number of free screenings for female patients age 40-64 and the number of no-cost or low-cost diagnostic services for those patients as well as enhance patient education and support. A program manager will coordinate program activities including: patient education, facilitate off-site screenings, referrals for diagnostic services when needed, and coordinate referrals with community partners and primary care physicians.
Methodist Health System, in conjunction with local congregations and community organizations, seeks to provide breast health education and screening mammography services to the medically underserved of Dallas County. The program’s goal is to increase accessibility of breast health services at convenient and familiar locations. Education will be offered to women 18 years and older that attend outreach and health fair events and mobile mammography sites. Screening mammograms will be offered to women 40 years old or older at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Methodist Charlton Medical Center and various community locations throughout southern Dallas County by use of Methodist’s mobile mammography unit. Diagnostic services will be offered at Methodist Dallas and Methodist Charlton Medical Centers and will include clinic visits (as needed for breast care), diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds and biopsies.

Parkland’s Breast Health Outreach Initiative began in 1990 to provide breast cancer screening, prevention and intervention services to Dallas County residents. This program embodies Parkland’s mission to serve the uninsured, underserved and medically underserved women in Dallas County who might otherwise not receive this critical health service and education. Through its mobile mammography unit, Parkland provides mammography screenings, case management and breast education. The success of the program is attributed to the mobile unit’s presence in the neighborhoods of underserved women which makes preventive care more readily accessible, removes economic barriers, detects breast cancer in its earliest stages and refers patients for further treatment if needed.

UT Southwestern Breast Imaging Services extends its digital mobile mammography unit in local Dallas County communities to increase utilization of mammography as a screening tool. This effort encompasses education screening and regular participation of uninsured Dallas County women who might not otherwise receive screening mammography. The mobile mammography unit serves to provide a digital, life-saving screening mammogram to women in the most convenient way possible, near home or work, with personalized service.

The purpose of YW Women’s Health is to mobilize low-income, uninsured or underinsured women to make breast health a life-long habit. The program expands access to quality breast health services through a continuum of care to include education, mammogram screenings, diagnostic exams, transportation assistance, outreach and access to treatment. YW Patient Navigators guide women through the breast health system, connecting them to needed ancillary resources and supports. All services are offered in English and Spanish. Believing that lives are saved through early detection, YW Women’s Health is committed to providing a coordinated continuum of services to at-risk women in Dallas County.

The Asian Breast Health Outreach Project (ABHOP) provides educational seminars and screening mammograms to empower the Asian community with the knowledge and tools to detect breast cancer early. Barriers such as language, fear, lack of information and sometimes means, keep these women from seeking care. Seminars are conducted in the native language of participants by physicians, nurses, or outreach staff, and breast health materials are language specific and culturally appropriate. Screening mammograms and referrals are provided at no cost through the Center for Women’s Health at Methodist Richardson Medical Center for low-income, medically underserved Asian women. By minimizing cultural, financial, and language barriers for Asian women, ABHOP increases the number of women participating in screenings for the early detection of breast cancer.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas (PPGT) breast health program aims to detect breast cancer at its earliest stages by providing uninsured women of Dallas County with breast self-awareness education and screening mammography. Planned Parenthood provides women with one-on-one breast health education, which includes breast self-awareness and education about the importance of screening mammography. This grant enables PPGT to provide no-cost screening mammograms through referral programs in five Dallas County health centers. Providers send all mammography results directly to Planned Parenthood for the clinician to review and manage. Follow-up coordinators monitor referrals and results of mammograms, working directly with patients to help them navigate the breast health continuum of care.

Screening Our Sisters seeks to reduce late diagnosis of women in high-risk areas. Partnering with area churches, community organizations, and health care providers, the program’s prevention events will offer breast cancer education, access to mobile mammography or links to other screening services. Project staff will provide client navigation services for women for services needed along the breast health continuum of care. Screening Our Sisters follows a grassroots model and will rely on community volunteers, breast cancer survivors, and local church leaders to help instill community ownership of the program.

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