

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of OREGON*

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## *Media Release*

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### **Russian Oregon Social Services awarded funds to expand breast and cervical health education and support**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS)'s Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project has received major grants from the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Investment Program and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund (SMCF).

The Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project uses educational outreach and treatment support to provide Russian-speaking women in the community with Pap tests, clinical breast exams and mammography. The project's ultimate objective is to raise the mammography rate and lower the rate of breast and cervical Oregon and southwest Washington.

Russian Oregon Social Services Development Assistant Marcus Harris spoke for Program Manager Yelena Hansen about the grants, "We deeply appreciate the support of these two important organizations. Their support will enable us to reach many people who would otherwise have not access to these tests. These grants also reinforce the longtime support of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation for our programs."

The American Cancer Society's support of \$50,000 begins in September 2008 and runs through August 2010. The Spirit Mountain Community Fund will grant \$25,000 in early August. Both grants will supplement funding from Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a long-time supporter of ROSS.

ROSS has been providing breast health education to an estimated 100,000 Russian-speaking refugees/immigrants since 2001. The new grants will allow ROSS to add cervical cancer educational outreach and treatment support to the project; to offer survivor support to Russian-speaking women who are battling breast/cervical cancer; to extend the project's outreach and support to the large Old Believer community living in Marion County, Ore.; and to offer incentives such as bus passes and gift cards to Russian-speaking women if they schedule and attend mammography appointments. The new project will also cover the cost of clinical breast exams and mammography for low-income, uninsured Russian-speaking

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#### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ▪ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ▪ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ▪ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ▪ Church of the Brethren ▪ Community of Christ  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ▪ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ▪ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ▪ Greek Orthodox Church ▪ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ▪ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ▪ United Church of Christ ▪ United Methodist Church ▪ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

women who are too young to access state-subsidized exams. These enhancements enable the ROSS Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project to be an even stronger voice in the fight against cancer in Oregon and southwest Washington.

For more information about Russian Oregon Social Services, call (503) 777-3437.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*