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SUSAN G. KOMEN WILL SUPPORT RESEARCH ON BREAST CANCER

- *Course for the Cure™* Workshops

Women of the neighborhoods of the south zone of Porto Alegre were chosen by the trainers of the *Course for the Cure™*, organized in Porto Alegre by the Institute of Mama of the RS (IMAMA) and promoted by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a recognized American NGO engaged in fighting breast cancer for over 25 years. The community chose to support the Breast Nucleus POA, a program that tracks breast cancer incidence in the country, a partnership between Hospital Moinhos de Vento and the city's Department of Health with support of the IMAMA.

The group of women will meet Friday, April 11, to outline the direction of the project. "Even though the program is close to the community and has given the participants the information necessary to detect the illness early, half of these women do not go to the Breast Nucleus POA for an examination. With the support of the Komen organization, we will discover the obstacles that hinder women to take care of their health and we will develop strategies to be successful," affirms Maira Caleffi, President of IMAMA, one of the two Brazilian institutions chosen to host the program.

The initiative began in March when the group congregated for the first time with Maria Teresa Veit, psycho-oncologist and sociologist, and Luciana Holtz de Barros, psycho-oncologist and specialist in bioethics, the professionals responsible for the development of the program in Brazil. The workshop on April 11 happens between 9pm and 18pm, in the Hospital Moinhos de Vento (Tiradentes, 235) and will be attended by Diza Gonzaga, of the Foundation Thiago Gonzaga, who was invited to speak about Volunteerism.

The activity is part of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Initiative Breast Cancer Awareness, a program operating in the countries of Costa Rica, Mexico, Jordan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, the Ukraine and United Arab Emirates, with the support of the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush. The goal of the Initiative is to create a global dynamic network of people with the ability, knowledge and vision to develop a strategic plan appropriate for the needs of those afflicted with breast cancer.

In Porto Alegre, for example, breast tumors are the biggest cause of mortality for cancer in women, according to research done by the Municipal City Hall at the beginning of 2008. "We have one of the highest incidences of mortality for an illness that, if diagnosed early, is curable in 95% of the cases. Our women are dying of an illness that has a cure – lack of information and difficulty of access are mainly responsible for this", explain Maira Caleffi.

You can find more information online at www.imama.org.br or by telephone at (51) 3264 3000.