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Volunteers signing up to help with breast cancer awareness and prevention in the African American community gather for a photo during a training summit last month The group is part of Worship in Pink, a breast health education program for congregations of all faiths sponsored by the Susan B. Komen foundation of Oregon and southwest Washington.

Health Matters Worship in Pink promotes early detection

A public service campaign to help with breast cancer awareness and prevention in the African American community goes front and center next month when volunteers from the community host a free heath fair with onsite mammograms provided by health care professionals. Among black women, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death, behind lung cancer. And, despite generally similar screening rates in the US, breast cancer is detected at an advanced stage more often in black than in white women. This difference

has been largely attributed to longer intervals between mammograms and a lack of timely follow-up of suspicious results.

Susan B. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington, a nonprofit organization, is working to reduce these health disparities with their Worship in Pink program. As part of the effort, local volunteers from congregations of all faiths are pledged to bring breast cancer health information to their friends and neighbors.

The group will kick off their annual cam-

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