

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YWCA of Greater Atlanta Awarded \$50,000 from Georgia’s Breast Cancer License Tag Fund to Provide Breast Health Screening Information and Exams to Uninsured Women

ATLANTA –Thanks to citizens purchasing Georgia’s Breast Cancer License Tags (BCLT), YWCA of Greater Atlanta’s ENCOREplus program will be able to expand its educational program to an estimated 600 women and provide 120 free mammograms and 80 free clinical breast exams to qualified low-income women in targeted communities.

“The disparity between breast cancer death rates for black and white women in Atlanta is greater than in any other major U.S. city,” says Sharmen Gowens, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Atlanta. “This award will help us target women primarily in DeKalb County and the Atlanta Empowerment zone in Fulton County including Auburn Avenue, Cabbagetown, English Avenue, Mechanicsville, Peopletown and Summerhill. These women are identified as being in great need of healthcare assistance.”

Twenty-two dollars (\$22) of each Breast Cancer license tag purchased, or thirty-five (\$35) of each tag renewed, funds the \$300,000 in awards this year, administered by the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE) on behalf of the State Office of Rural Health in the Department of Community Health.

“While Georgia has increased breast cancer screening rates, not all women – particularly those without health insurance – receive appropriate screening or treatment,” says Angie Patterson, Vice President of Georgia CORE and a 16-year breast cancer survivor. “The work this grant money supports will help identify breast cancer at an earlier stage, making treatment more effective.”

For information on the Georgia BCLT program, go to www.georgiacancerinfo.org/breastcancertag or to purchase a BCLT [click here](#).

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***The State Office of Rural Health (SORH)**, a part of the Department of Community Health, works to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas and to reduce health status disparities. SORH provides funding for institutional framework that links small rural communities with State and Federal resources to help develop long-term solutions to rural health problems.*

***Georgia CORE** is a public-private partnership designed to bring higher quality, better organized and more cost-effective care to cancer patients and survivors. The organization's Board of Directors is composed of cancer experts from leading cancer centers and academic institutions. CORE's network develops innovative tools and resources for cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, healthcare providers and researchers. Our collective vision is to contribute to the state's distinction as a national leader in cancer care and research and a higher caliber of health care for all Georgians. CORE's flagship resource, www.GeorgiaCancerInfo.org is the only statewide online information center of its kind, where details can be found on oncologists, clinical trials and treatment centers throughout the state.*

***YWCA of Greater Atlanta** is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen communities. YWCA has been a voice for change for women and families in Greater Atlanta since its founding at Spelman College in 1902. The organization’s foundation is built upon a history of mobilizing diverse groups of women leaders to identify community problems, advocate for solutions and create more equitable communities in Georgia. For more information, visit www.ywcaatlanta.org*

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