

AABCA Newsletter

Celebrate Life and You!



Being There!

Keep Going Strong!

The African American Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc (AABCA) reached a milestone celebrating its first 20 years from 1990 through 2010. It is a testimony to AABCA's hard work and commitment to cancer survivors, community awareness, collaboration, help, hope inspiration, love and perseverance. With 2011, AABCA is ready to move on to new achievements, challenges and endeavors.

AABCA awarded 2011/12 Komen Community Grant

The African American Breast Cancer Alliance, (AABCA) was awarded a \$94,080, 2011 Community Grant from the Minnesota Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure, to implement its new Breast Cancer Survivor Support Project (BCSS) for African Americans diagnosed with breast cancer.



Since 1990, AABCA provides education and psychosocial support for African Americans diagnosed with breast cancer at anytime of their treatment and recover. The grant provides funding to hire a project manager and outreach specialist to create a community media awareness campaign. "Getting the word out in the community that there is help and hope if a person is dealing with breast cancer is needed in order for a patient to become a survivor, mentally and physically", according to Reona Berry, the former Chair of the Board and newly appointed BCSS Project Director. The BCSS project will initiate a marketing and promotional outreach to community agencies and health care organizations so they can share information about AABCA and its BCSS project.

Betty Sanders, board member, a two time breast cancer survivor and cancer patient navigator states, "We hope to reach breast cancer patients and survivors of all ages, women and men in the Twin Cities to help them cope with this disease. Breast cancer is scary and it's good for people to know about organizations, a support group and other cancer survivors to connect with in the community. We thank the Minnesota

Affiliate Susan G Komen for the Cure, for giving AABCA an opportunity to spread its reach into the Twin Cities community."

The new project, to be completed by the end of March 2012, will hopefully become a catalyst for creating more navigation, outreach and support services for black breast cancer patients and survivors. More information about the Minnesota Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is available at: www.komenminnesota.org.



May 8, 2011

**Komen Race for the Cure, Twin Cites
Mall of America, Bloomington**

**(L-R) Betty Sanders, Debbie Ingram,
Kim Motley, Debbie Gatlin, Reona Berry,
Nedy Windham and Autumn Frazier**

AABCA News and News makers



Reona Berry, a founding member of the African American Breast Cancer Alliance (AABCA) and Board of Directors for the past 20 years now has a new gig.

Since being diagnosed with breast cancer 21 years ago, she is a true survivor, serving in various board positions, quietly but effectively building and growing the thriving organization. After 12+ years serving as the chair, president, and executive director of AABCA she was recently appointed by the Board to the position of Project Director of AABCA's new Breast Cancer Survivors Support Project funded by the Minnesota Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure Community Grant Project. "I never thought cancer would be such a deciding force in my life. Breast cancer fueled my and the other AABCA founders' determination and passion to address the disparities black women experienced, share positive life affirmations and life saving information for African American women, men, families and communities in the struggle and survivorship of this disease. I thank God for allowing me to carry on this mission and meet so many wonderful people in this journey. I look forward to expanding AABCA's outreach in the community and bringing patients, community people and resources together working towards better experiences, information and outcomes for African American women and men diagnosed with breast cancer."

Betty Sanders takes over the position of Board chair of the organization as AABCA looks to the future of providing support services to African Americans diagnosed with breast cancer and engaging the community in its growing efforts.

“The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and honor Reona’s long term commitment and dedication along with the insight and drive she stimulated in the growth and stability of the AABCA. We look forward to working with Reona as we implement our new breast cancer patients and survivors outreach project and services,” stated Sanders.

AABCA Calendar of Events

Being There! Please share information about the AABCA and its support group meetings with others diagnosed or affected by breast cancer and need friendly information and support from others that have “been there” and can help ease the confusion and pain of the breast cancer experience.

- ◆ **Support Group meetings:** Every **3rd** Saturday each month 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at various community centered locations. The schedule for future 2011 meetings:
 - ◇ August **20** – North Regional Library, Fremont & Lowry Ave North, Mpls
 - ◇ September **17** – Sterling Club, St Paul, MN
 - ◇ October **15** – AABCA’s 21st year Survivors and Community Celebration
 - ◇ November **19** - tba
 - ◇ December - tba

For more information about AABCA meetings, please E-mail: info@aabcainc.org, call (612) 825-3675 or (612) 599-0440.

- *Meeting notices are sent by Email and post cards, mailed to members’ home address. Members will be notified on any changes in dates, locations or times.*
- Please **UPDATE your contact information if it has changed:** Name, Address, Phone numbers or Email address so you will receive all AABCA notices.
- ◆ The Board of Directors is searching for knowledgeable, professional and skilled members for the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors that have an interest and passion for the mission of the African American Breast Cancer Alliance. Please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee by Email, vmsaabcainc@gmail.com for more information.
- ◆ August **13** – AABCA at the Freedom Jazz Festival, 1 pm, Minnehaha Park, Mpls.
- ◆ August **13** – Pan-African Women’s Action Summit, 8-5 pm, MCTC, Mpls.

- ◆ October 1 – AABCA at the “Living With Breast Cancer 10th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Educational Conference” to be held Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Check out the Breast Cancer Awareness Association website for more information, www.bcaamn.org .
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to help plan and work AABCA’s 21st Year Survivors and Community Celebration in October. We need your energy, ideas and time. Please contact info@aabcainc.org for more information about the planning committee.
- ◆ Leave us a message if you know of other community events that AABCA can attend.

FYI

Current Board of Directors:

- Chair – Betty Sanders
- Vice-Chair – Vanessa McKendall Stephens
- Treasurer – Gwen Reed
- Secretary – Kim Motley
- Member – Autumn Frazier
- Member – Beverly Propes
- Member – Kathy Phifer

Mailing address:

- PO Box 8981, Minneapolis, MN 55408

E-mail:

- info@aabcainc.org

Web:

- www.Aabcainc.org

Telephone:

- (612) 825-3675 or (612) 270-7664



- Friend AABCA on Facebook: *(Breast cancer patients, survivors and supporters)*
- If you have healthy and important information to share for breast cancer patients and survivors, please send to info@aabcainc.org.

Take Care!