

# YW women's health



**“I really appreciate everything YW Women’s Health did for me. I really believe you were instrumental in saving my life. I had no job, no money, no medical insurance, and basically no hope that I would not die.”**

**– Alicia, 56**

Currently battling her aggressive breast cancer diagnosis

## Saving Lives Through Early Detection of Breast Cancer

Access to affordable health care influences the health and wellness of the entire community, yet rising costs of insurance and healthcare services continue to reduce accessibility to private insurance and government healthcare programs. Access for low-income women is further diminished as competing financial priorities often preclude preventive health screenings. (American Cancer Society 2008)

- **In Dallas County a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every six hours and another dies of breast cancer every 34 hours. Early detection can prevent 30-40% of these deaths.** (Texas Cancer Council 2008)
- **In Texas only 27% of women with no usual source of medical care and 30% of women with no health insurance reported receiving a mammogram compared to 56% of all women age 40 years and older with a primary care physician.** (American Cancer Society 2009)
- **Low-income women are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced stages of cancer and demonstrate lower survival rates.** (Center for Disease Control 2005)

### YW Women’s Health Program: Providing a Solution for Success

YW Women’s Health helps underinsured and uninsured low-income women receive mammograms and coordinated access to breast health care. Through education, access and diagnosis, women will experience earlier detection, expanded treatment options and lower mortality rates.

[www.ywcadallas.org](http://www.ywcadallas.org)  
214.826.YWCA

- 17% of women served will need diagnostic services
- 500 women call YW for services every month
- Only 19% of women referred to other clinics will follow-through with services compared to an 86% rate when continuing services through YW

### A Life-Saving Solution

YW is the only organization in Dallas to offer a comprehensive women’s breast health program at no cost to the client combining community-based screenings, diagnostic exams, patient navigation services, community outreach, breast self-examination education, and transportation assistance. YW was selected by Susan G. Komen for the Cure to implement the first Breast Health Patient Navigator program in Dallas.

Last year, of those receiving free mammograms and unique YW case management services – 290 women received further diagnostic testing in response to abnormal mammogram results.

### The Importance of Mammograms

More than four out of five YW client families are headed by single mothers - usually the sole wage earner and caregiver for the family. Studies have shown many women elect to forgo preventive health care due to economic constraints. As breast cancer identified within the first 12 months has a nearly 100% cure rate, the importance of early detection in the continuing stability of the family cannot be overstated.

**empowering women**  
ywca

**The community leader on women’s issues.**