

Renewing lives. Reclaiming hope.

MATTERS

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Patients will be provided with a clinical breast exam and screening mammography on board the state-of-the-art, 40-foot Project Renewal ScanVan.

The Project Renewal ScanVan provides breast cancer screenings for women in need.

69%

of uninsured women over 40 have not received a mammogram in the past two years

4,600

patients screened for breast cancer by Project Renewal's ScanVan each year

300+

ScanVan screening events across all five boroughs and Long Island each year

NEW SCANVAN HITS THE ROAD

Our brand new, state-of-the-art ScanVan mobile mammography clinic is hitting the streets in October, in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The ScanVan program is the first of its kind in the nation, delivering mammograms and care coordination, free of charge, to thousands of underserved women each year. After 13 years on the road, our old van was breaking down, limiting our ability to reliably reach patients.

The new ScanVan is designed to withstand the wear and tear of New York City traffic and the program's busy schedule of more than 300 annual screening events throughout all five boroughs and Long Island. Inside, cutting-edge, Hologic full field digital mammography equipment will provide patients with hospital-quality screenings.

"We are looking forward to providing life-saving breast cancer screening exams and breast health education in a modern, comfortable coach throughout New York City," said Mary Solomon, Director of the Project Renewal ScanVan.



When Naomi, 41, found a lump in her breast this spring, she knew she needed to get it checked out. She didn't have insurance, so her doctor advised she go to the ScanVan, where we provide comprehensive screenings and treatment referrals for communities in need, including uninsured, poorly insured, immigrant, homeless, and low-income women.

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SCANVAN HELPS NAOMI FIGHT BREAST CANCER

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"If it weren't for the ScanVan, I would have waited to get a mammogram. The van changed my life."

The day after her mammogram, Naomi received a call from the ScanVan—the lump was malignant. The diagnosis is frightening, but Naomi is thankful it was caught in its early stages. "If it weren't for the ScanVan, I would have waited to get a mammogram," says Naomi. "The van changed my life."

Today, Naomi is bravely confronting the physical and emotional effects of breast cancer. She is grateful for the ScanVan team's compassion, and for swiftly helping her access the best treatment. "They helped me navigate Medicaid and figure out who to call to push the process forward," recalls Naomi. "Project Renewal and the ScanVan connected me to amazing doctors who are helping me fight this."

"Our staff takes pride in helping patients through complicated and overwhelming systems, taking some burden off of the women we serve during a very stressful time in their lives," says Mary Solomon. "We are so glad we were able to connect Naomi to a great team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center."



Underserved women continue to experience significantly higher breast cancer morbidity and mortality rates due to less frequent screenings and later detection of the disease. The ScanVan breaks down barriers to annual screenings by providing mammograms to all women, regardless of insurance status. This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, you can help us address these disparities by contributing via the enclosed donation card.







"Susan G. Komen Greater NYC is thrilled to partner with Project Renewal's ScanVan and to have helped to put their new van on the road," says Linda Tantawi, CEO of Komen Greater NYC. "We are proud to be a part of ensuring that underserved women get access to quality, life-saving breast health care."



A CONVERSATION WITH MARY SOLOMON

DIRECTOR OF THE PROJECT RENEWAL SCANVAN

"We're proud that the ScanVan is now part of the comprehensive services that Project Renewal provides for low-income, homeless, and formerly homeless clients."

How did the ScanVan get started, and why do you do this work?

My grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1982. Luckily, it was detected early and she recovered, but the experience left my mother worried about women without access to screenings. So in 1986, she started the Women's Outreach Network, the nation's first mobile mammography clinic, which would become the ScanVan. I joined the team the following year.

Later on, my mother and sister were both also diagnosed with breast cancer in its early stages. I learned first-hand that early detection is crucial for patient survival, and my family's experience underscores the need for all women to have access to breast cancer screening.

How and why did the ScanVan become part of Project Renewal?

When we encountered financial challenges in 2007, Project Renewal jumped in to help. The complementary missions of our van and Project Renewal led to the seamless incorporation of the ScanVan into its fleet of mobile medical vans. We're proud that the ScanVan is now part of the comprehensive services that Project Renewal provides for low-income, homeless, and formerly homeless clients. One of the ScanVan's regular stops is Project Renewal's New Providence Women's Shelter. where we screen women who have nowhere else to turn for mammography.

What community organizations do you partner with, and why?

Our staff works with a wide range of community-based organizations, like Callen-Lorde Health Center, Charles B. Wang Health Centers, Gujarati Samaj Community Hall, Korean Community Services, Tvistomi Association, and Community Healthcare Network, to identify women who need services. They help us overcome cultural and language barriers in their communities and reach diverse groups across all five boroughs.

What is one of the most common misconceptions that you encounter when it comes to breast cancer screenings?

Many women are unaware that mammography needs to be performed annually starting at age 40 to be effective in uncovering early stages of disease. Women should consult with their doctor before age 40 if they have a family history of breast cancer to determine at what age screening would be appropriate.



Mary's mom and the first mobile mammography van.



Mary Solomon, second from left, pictured with the ScanVan team in 2016.



THANK YOU, NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE!

We are grateful to the City Council, in particular Speaker Johnson, Council Member Levin, Council Member Lander, and Council Member Torres, for their capital allocations for the new Project Renewal ScanVan! We also thank New York State Senator Boyle and New York State Senator Lanza for their generous support. This funding will allow us to furnish the ScanVan with state-of-the-art medical equipment to reach thousands of New Yorkers each year with life-saving breast cancer screening services.







STAY CONNECTED WITH PROJECT RENEWAL

- 1 12TH ANNUAL FALL BALL Join the Project Renewal Junior Board at our 12th Annual Fall Ball on Friday, November 9 to support our health, housing and employment programs for New Yorkers facing homelessness. The celebration will include food tastings, an open bar, auction, raffle, DJ, and more! Get your tickets starting in October at events.projectrenewal.org
- 2 GREEN THUMBS GIVE BACK Generous volunteers from UBS helped to clean up the garden at our Leona Blanche House, one of our transitional housing buildings in the Bronx.
- **3 HELP IN THE KITCHEN** Capital One volunteers pitched in to help with food preparation at our Third Street Shelter kitchen.





