

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: SAFoundation@marathonstrategies.com

**SAINT AGATHA FOUNDATION CONVENES NEARLY 30 REGIONAL PARTNERS TO
ADVANCE BREAST CANCER CARE ACROSS CENTRAL NEW YORK**

*Healthcare and Community Partners Gathered During Breast Cancer Awareness Month to Discuss
Advances in Early Detection, Expand Access to Care, and Strengthen Regional Collaboration*

SYRACUSE, NY (October 22, 2026) – Saint Agatha Foundation — dedicated to providing support, comfort, and care to breast cancer patients — today convened nearly 30 healthcare and community partners from across Central New York for its annual gathering during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Representing a growing network of organizations supporting New Yorkers across 12 counties, attendees gathered to celebrate the Foundation’s impact over the past year, discuss advances in breast cancer detection and treatment, and identify new opportunities to expand access to care and supportive services for people across the region.

“Working alongside our dedicated healthcare providers and community partners, Saint Agatha Foundation is proud to have helped thousands of patients and families across Central New York,” said **Saint Agatha Foundation’s Board President Kathleen Mezzalingua**. “A breast cancer diagnosis can bring tremendous financial and emotional challenges, and no one should have to worry about how they will afford the care they need. By bringing our partners together, we can strengthen our impact, remove barriers to treatment and recovery, and ensure more patients and families have the resources they need during one of the most difficult times in their lives.”

Beyond the physical and emotional challenges of a breast cancer diagnosis, patients and their families often face significant financial burdens, from medical bills and treatment costs to transportation and everyday living expenses. Through its network of partners, Saint Agatha Foundation helps alleviate these pressures so people can focus on their health and recovery. The Foundation serves women and men with breast cancer living in 12 counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Otsego, Oswego, Saint Lawrence, and Tompkins.

This year’s convening follows an unprecedented \$2.3 million investment by Saint Agatha Foundation in eight regional healthcare partners to expand access to high-quality breast cancer care across Central New York. Announced earlier this year, the funding is helping bring advanced diagnostic technology and other critical resources to communities throughout the region, improving access to early detection and life-saving care.

“Early detection is one of the most powerful tools we have to improve outcomes in the fight against breast cancer,” said **Dr. Stephen Montgomery, Director Emeritus of Crouse Hospital’s Breast Imaging Program**, and keynote speaker at the convening. “Through its investments in advanced technology and its strong partnerships, Saint Agatha Foundation is helping transform access to breast cancer detection and treatment across Central New York. Meetings like this create valuable opportunities for providers to share knowledge, enhance collaboration, and ensure that more people can benefit from the latest advances in care.”

Saint Agatha Foundation currently partners with nearly 30 nonprofit partners across Central New York to provide financial assistance and other essential resources to breast cancer patients. Through grants to local hospitals, healthcare providers, and community organizations, the Foundation helps eligible people cover

a wide range of expenses, including medical treatments, co-payments, medications, transportation, and everyday living expenses.

Patients and their families can find more information at: <https://saintagathafoundation.org/patient-support/>
Interested 501(c)(3) organizations based in the Foundation's 12 counties of operations should visit:
www.saintagathafoundation.org/for-providers/

###

About Saint Agatha Foundation

Saint Agatha Foundation was founded in 2004 to provide support, comfort and care to breast cancer patients. We help individuals, particularly those who are uninsured and underinsured, in the Central New York area by providing financial assistance to cover a range of costs for treatment and recovery. Learn more about Saint Agatha Foundation's resources for patients and funding opportunities for providers:
www.saintagathafoundation.org