



The purpose of The Mermaid

Project is two-fold: to offer breast health education to all people in our community, and to provide access to breast healthcare for our community's medically-underserved population.

The Mermaid Project is the only program of its kind providing free breast cancer screening, diagnostics, and treatment to qualifying low-income, uninsured people living in Southern Brazoria County and neighboring communities.



Generous Sponsors of The Mermaid Project



Brazosport Regional Health System
Dr. and Mrs. Mark D. Bonnen
Brazosport Rotary Club
Dr. and Mrs. Emerardo Falcon
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Phi Theta Kappa, Brazosport College Chapter
West Brazos Ladies Golf Association
Women Building Community

Mermaid Hotline

979-297-3733

Mermaid Fax

979-299-3412



Brazosport
HEALTH FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 90
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
Office 979-297-6190
Fax 979-297-9313
www.brazosport-health-foundation.org

*Brazosport Health Foundation is a division of
Brazosport Regional Health System.*



*The Mermaid Project is an
outreach program of
Brazosport Health Foundation*

The fundamental goal of *The Mermaid Project* is to transform potential victims of breast cancer into survivors. Ideally, no one should go without proper breast healthcare, and the Project exists to meet this need.

How to Qualify

Qualifications for the program include:

1. Local resident: A Mermaid Project participant should be a resident of Southern Brazoria County or one of the neighboring communities.
2. Low-income: The application process includes financial screening.
3. No health insurance: The only exception is Texas Medicaid Women's Health Program.

Please call *The Mermaid Project* at (979) 297-3733 to apply for the program.



*Early detection
is the best
protection!*

Getting the Care You Need

■ SCREENING MAMMOGRAM

The Mermaid Project can provide access to essential screening services, including a clinical breast exam and mammogram.

■ DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

If your mammogram shows an abnormality, or you or your doctor suspect symptoms of breast cancer, *The Mermaid Project* can help you receive medically-necessary services such as a diagnostic mammogram, ultrasound, breast MRI or biopsy.

■ TREATMENT

Should you be diagnosed with breast cancer, *The Mermaid Project* provides access to life-saving treatment. In most cases, your cancer can be treated at Brazosport Regional Cancer Center. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Project will collaborate with an area facility for treatment and continue to pay for these services.

■ OTHER WAYS WE HELP

Patient navigators are the cornerstone of this program. They help clients through the maze of the medical system in a culturally relevant and compassionate way. Their training as registered nurses makes them especially qualified to provide breast health services to the community.

The Mermaid Project hosts a monthly breast cancer support group. There is no charge for attending. Survivors as well as those currently in treatment are welcome to attend regardless of which hospital provided their treatment services.

Risk Factors

All women are at risk for breast cancer. Many women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. Common risk factors include:

- Age (a woman's risk increases with age)
- Family history of breast cancer
- Postmenopausal hormone use
- Current or recent use of birth control pills
- High breast density on mammogram
- Radiation exposure in youth
- Overweight or weight gain
- First period before age 12
- High bone density
- Drinking alcohol
- Not breastfeeding
- Lack of exercise
- Being tall
- Ashkenazi Jewish heritage
- High socioeconomic status

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, but early detection is the best protection. If diagnosed early, your five-year survival rate is over 95%.

