



African Women's Cancer Awareness Association

Breaking the Barriers of Silence

OUR HISTORY

- African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) was founded in 2004.
- To address African Immigrant needs, AWCAA provides culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and public education.
- Patient navigation is central to the AWCAA awareness, prevention, and control model.
- Since inception, AWCAA has conducted outreach to over 50,000 men and women both in the U. S. (40%) and abroad (60%).

MISSION & COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

AWCAA works to develop substantial partnerships that eliminate disparities in awareness, prevention, and treatment of cancer for African immigrant communities, especially the medically underserved. We accomplish our goal through education, empowerment, and developing self-sufficiency.



AWCAA at a community health outreach in an Ethiopian church in DC



Medical Mission in Nigeria

HEALTH EQUITY GOALS

AWCAA addresses health disparities among African immigrant communities by:

- Ensuring access to health care services
- Providing health education that promotes informed decision making.
- Developing health education material accessible in various languages spoken among African immigrants such as Amharic, Arabic, Berber, French, Hausa, Ibo, Krio, Swahili, Shona, Yoruba



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie was a 27 year old Nigerian woman with Stage 4 breast cancer. AWCAA helped her apply for insurance to receive chemotherapy and get a double mastectomy. We also assisted her with finding accommodations, access to transportation, and provided her with psychosocial support.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

Education

- Provide education on breast cancer, hypertension, and diabetes prevention.
- Host workshops, seminars, and conferences in churches, embassies, and schools.
- Develop culturally tailored educational materials such as brochures and flyers



Outreach

- Participate in community events to provide health information and screening services.
- Host annual Africans Against Cancer Walk-a-Thon

Patient Navigation

- Provide referral services for low cost/free breast cancer care and prevention screening
- Schedule medical appointments
- Conduct home/hospital visits
- Provide translation and transportation services

Medical Missions to several African countries

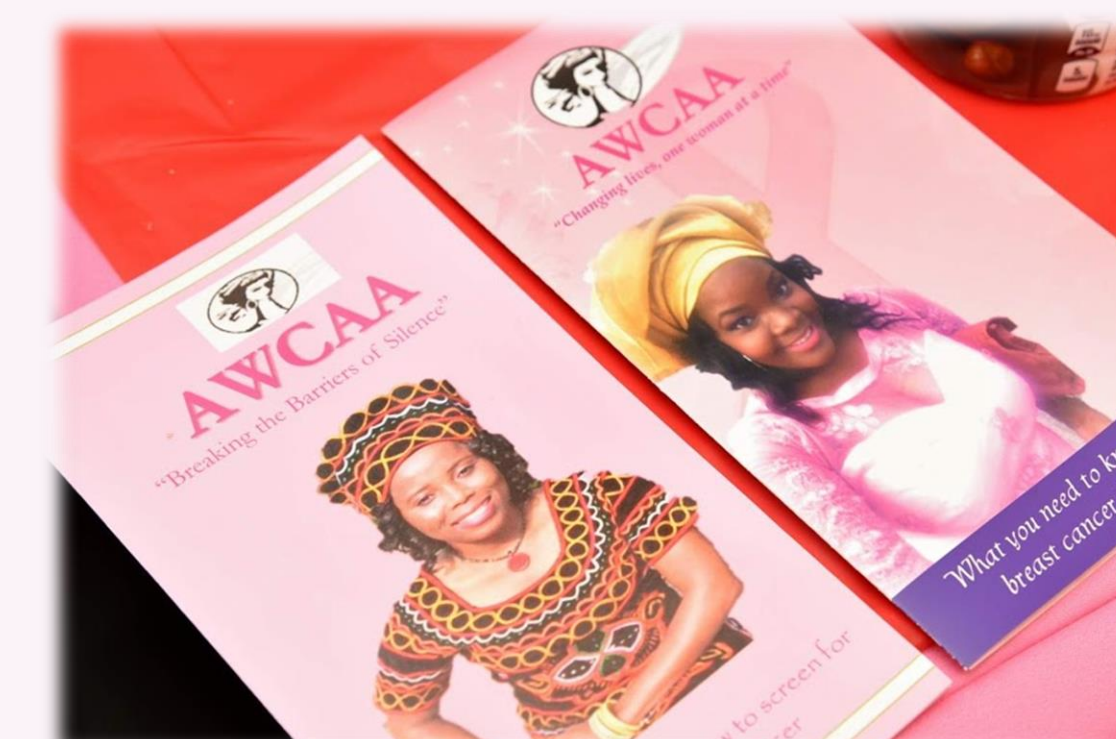
Research Program

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- During outreach activities we have observed that many African immigrants are dealing with comorbidity such as diabetes, hypertension, and, at times, cancer. We would like to better understand the barriers (ex: lack of insurance, lack of access to quality care) African immigrants are facing in managing these chronic diseases so we can tailor our programs to address barriers.
- We would like to understand what cultural, lifestyle, and nutrition choices are having a negative health impact on African immigrants.
- We have found that there is a lot of stigma around breast cancer prevention and care among African immigrants which can have negative health outcomes. We would like to understand how to better help our communities overcome stigmatization thus improve access to breast cancer prevention and care services.
- We would like to demonstrate how our education efforts and other culturally competent interventions such as our exercise activities are making a different and improving health outcomes.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

- Help us understand ways we can better address negative health outcomes we are identifying in the community.
- Apply for funding that focuses on breast cancer and other chronic diseases.
- Help us analyze existing data regarding our population.
- Plan and implement a program evaluation
- Identify students for service learning projects (i.e. outreach activities, educational material development, patient navigation)



WAYS WE CAN HELP YOU

- Cultural competence of African communities
- Leadership support to conduct research
- Navigation in the community
- Understanding of African immigrant needs and strengths
- Understanding of African immigrant cultures and context.
- Conduct community assessments
- Experience working in research in community settings (i.e. focus groups, surveys)



CONTACT US

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