

How Advocates Can Help the Tissue Bank

1. Have a good understanding of what the Komen Tissue Bank is
 - i. Use key talking points provided by the Tissue Bank
 - ii. Visit the website to view what resources are available (tissue bank is expanding the ethnic diversity and age range of samples – stay current on updates)
 - iii. Be able to provide Tissue Bank contact information to researchers (many unaware there is a biorepository of just healthy tissue)
2. Share information with researchers
 - i. Those they are working with
 - ii. At meetings
 - iii. Others within their communities
3. Potential Tissue Collection Event
 - i. Opportunity
 1. Tissue Bank is looking to have events in various places across the country
 2. Get community more involved in research
 3. Help expand the diversity of the tissue samples
 4. Bring various stakeholders together for a major event that can impact breast cancer research (stimulates collaboration and awareness)
 5. Reduces fear/anxiety of research and perhaps clinical trials
 - ii. Challenges
 1. Must secure a medical partner (contract needed) and medical providers as volunteers
 2. IRB Approval at all stages may lead to delays (must start the process at least a year ahead of the event)
 3. Barriers to convincing various ethnic groups to participate due to fears of research and clinical trials