

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Providence VA Medical Center  
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Providence, RI 02908

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aug. 19, 2015**Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III  
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### **Gemma Donates Janes Gowns to Providence VAMC Women's Health Center**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation donated 250 “Janes” gowns to the Providence VA Medical Center Women’s Health Center today.

“The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation has touched the lives of many women, offering support, hope and educational services,” said Erin Clare Sears, associate director of operations for the Providence VAMC, who accepted the donation. “We’re honored by their donation of the Janes Examination Gowns, which we will provide to women Veterans in our Women’s Clinic, as well as in the main hospital and our community-based outreach clinics.”

Unlike traditional “Johnny” hospital gowns, the Janes gowns have a wrap closure that provides better coverage. “These women covered us through their service, now we can cover them, in some small way,” said Maria Gemma Corcelli, executive director of the Gemma Foundation.

The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation was established in 2004, two years after its namesake lost her fight with breast cancer. The foundation provides programs, services and resources across Rhode Island and into Massachusetts to raise breast health awareness, encourage threefold screening – breast self-exam, annual clinical exam and annual mammograms – and provide education about breast cancer.

The Providence VA Medical Center provides exceptional and accessible health care to Veterans, meeting the unique needs of women Veterans by offering them the privacy, dignity and sensitivity to gender-specific needs they have earned through their service.

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## Gemma Gown Donation, 2 of 3



Veterans Patricia Galvao, bottom row left, Connie Renee Rix, center, and Maria Helena Peixoto, bottom row second from right, show off three of the 250 new Janes Examination Gowns donated to the Providence VAMC Women's Health Center by the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. Also in the photo are, top row left to right: Erin Clare Sears, associate director of operations for the Providence VAMC, Sharon Linder, creator of the Janes gowns, Debra J. Romano, a Veteran spouse and volunteer, and Maria Gemma Corcelli, executive director of the Gemma Foundation; bottom row: second from left, Miriam R. Plitt, communications consultant, and far right, Tonya Maselli McConnell, women Veterans program manager for the Providence VA Medical Center. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson.)

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## Gemma Gown Donation, 3 of 3



The Gloria Gemma Hope Bus also visited the Providence VA Medical Center Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. The Hope Bus is Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation's mobile wellness and resource center. It delivers programs, services and resources to raise breast health awareness, encourage threefold screening – breast self-exam, annual clinical exam and annual mammograms – and provides education about breast cancer. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson.)

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