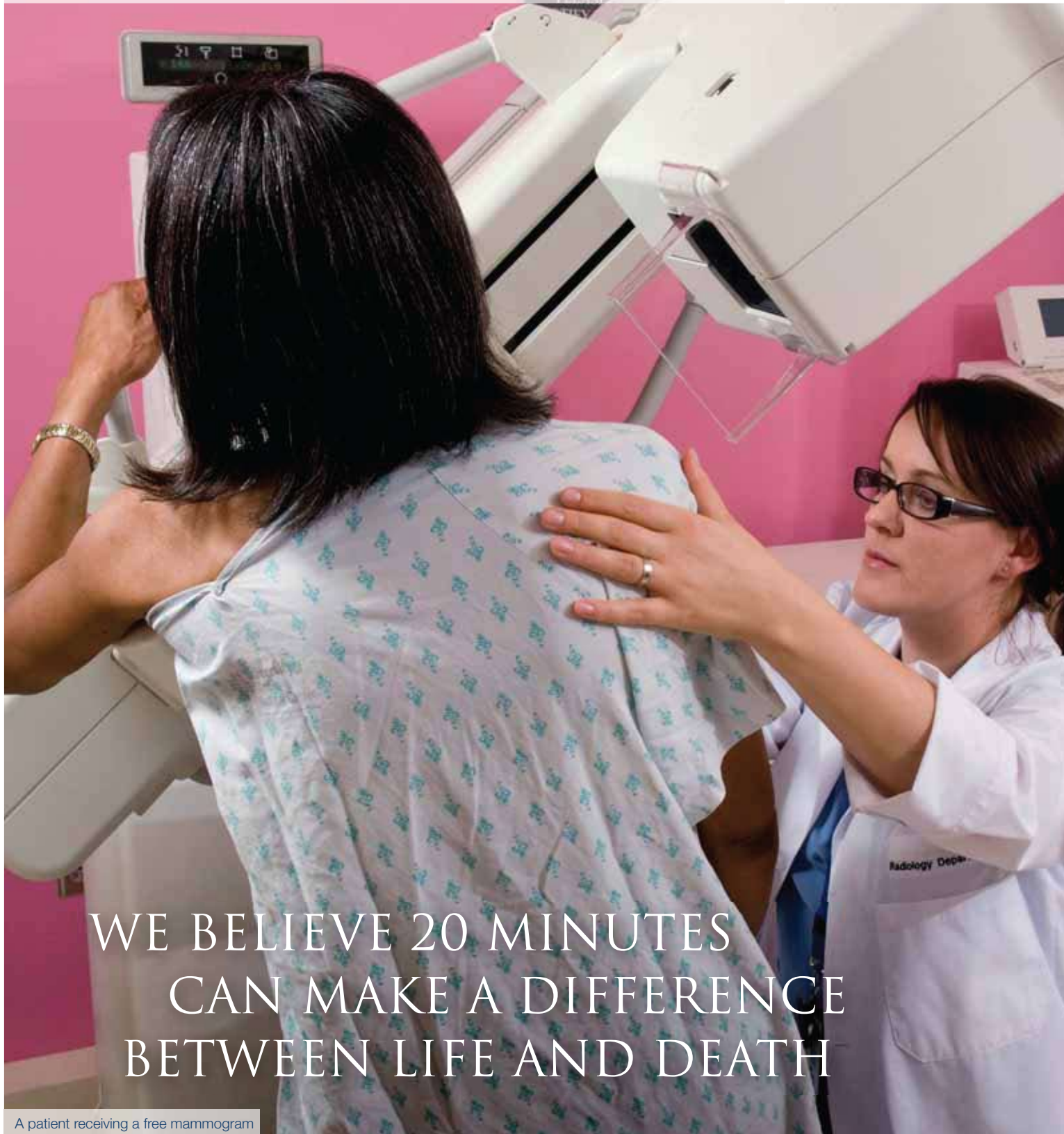


“UIC believed in us, the Evelyn Goldberg Center and the free mammography program when nobody else did. Most importantly, they treat our ladies with dignity and respect.”

—Sandy Goldberg, PhD, Breast Cancer Survivor and Television Journalist



WE BELIEVE 20 MINUTES
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

A patient receiving a free mammogram



Left:
Brenda Owen, University
of Illinois Medical Center
Breast Imaging Supervisor

Center:
Images from a
mammogram scan

Far right:
Cheryl Taylor



MAMMOGRAM OF PREVENTION

Like so many other women, Cheryl Taylor, 45, felt a lump in her breast and worried.

“I was sitting on my bed one night and felt it, but I didn’t do anything for a year,” she recalls. “I didn’t know how much mammograms cost, but I heard they were expensive, and I was scared of what I would learn.”

Like so many women, Taylor put off a simple, 20-minute screening that often can be the difference between life and death when breast cancer is caught early. Unfortunately, with a price tag of \$300 or more, a mammogram can be too expensive for many women who are struggling financially.

One woman wanted that situation to change. In 2002, Sandy Goldberg, PhD, a breast cancer survivor and television journalist, founded A Silver Lining Foundation, which helps make cancer services and education available to all. “Our program ensures that financial need doesn’t prevent access to high-quality, cancer-related healthcare,” Goldberg says.

In 2006, the foundation chose the University of Illinois Medical Center as its first partner in a program to provide free mammograms for women who couldn’t otherwise afford them. Goldberg already had established the Evelyn Goldberg Center in the UIC department of hematology/oncology. Named for Goldberg’s mother, the center houses a resource library for cancer patients and provides quality-of-life assistance during and after treatment.

A full course of breast imaging easily can total \$1,000 or more for screening and diagnostic mammograms, a breast ultrasound and a breast biopsy. A Silver Lining Foundation covers all these expenses by reimbursing healthcare partners such as the University of Illinois Medical Center.

Since the program began in 2006, more than 560 women have received free mammograms at UIMC, which has collected \$135,000 in reimbursements from the foundation. Goldberg also personally has arranged for \$230,000 in mammography equipment being donated to the medical center.

The only requirement for a woman to receive a free mammogram is that she must be uninsured or underinsured. Women who qualify receive a voucher for a mammogram, and minimal paperwork ensures that they receive timely care.

“Getting a mammogram is new for many of these women,” says Brenda Owen, UIMC’s breast imaging supervisor. “They see the big machine and wonder what we’re going to do. We get them talking about their kids and grandkids, and before you know it, they’re saying, ‘This wasn’t so bad.’”

Although not perfect, mammography is still the best way to detect breast cancer. Because it takes only two to three months for breast cancer cells to form, getting screened annually after age 40 is key to potentially life-saving early detection.

Taylor finally went to the UIMC emergency room for care in January and was referred to the mammogram program. To her relief, the screening determined that the lump she felt was not cancerous. All of her testing was paid for by A Silver Lining Foundation.

“It was a big weight off my shoulders. Thank God there’s someone out there who made the test possible, because money is a big concern,” says Taylor, who works part time as a home care provider and doesn’t have health insurance.

“The University of Illinois really cared about me,” Taylor continues. “I had never had a mammogram and didn’t know you were supposed to get them at age 40. They explained to me that I should have one at the same time every year. In January, I’ll be back there for my annual mammogram.”