

# “Incredible Example” of Hope



**T**he Promise Fund of Florida welcomed **First Lady Jill Biden** in recognition of the nonprofit's incredible progress in improving high quality access to care by helping uninsured and underinsured women overcome social determinants of health to obtain critical, early detection screening and life-saving treatment for breast and cervical cancers.

The First Lady made the visit as part of the Biden Administration's *Cancer Moonshot* initiative "to highlight the importance of private sector commitments and collaboration in the effort to end cancer as we know it." She was joined by Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services **Andrea Palm**.

Dr. Biden began her visit to Palm Beach County with a tour of **FoundCare Palm Springs**, a Federally Qualified Health Center where the Promise Fund has co-located the *Promise Fund Mammography Screening Center*, which houses a 3D state-of-the-art mammography machine donated by medical technology leader **Hologic**. Prior to the center's opening in 2020 in the high-risk, medically underserved community, only 10 percent of FoundCare patients with orders for mammograms received one. Now, nearly 60 percent do.

"The partnership happening here is incredibly novel and effective at making meaningful change in early detection and better outcomes," **Chris Irizarry**, Chief Executive Officer of FoundCare, said after the tour. "I hope to see this health care model replicated at Federally Qualified Health Centers across the nation."

Ambassador **Nancy Brinker**, Promise Fund Co-Founder, called it "a tremendous honor" to have the First Lady shine a spotlight on both the health equity disparities that the Promise Fund works to overcome as well as the unique Continuum of Care service delivery model that builds patient trust and support, making the health care system feel more welcoming for marginalized women.

Promise Fund patient navigator and two-time breast cancer survivor **Liliana Herrera** had the distinction of introducing the First Lady at the community-based event. She shared with the audience that she was uninsurable when her cancer returned, and she struggled to find an oncologist or charitable organization to help. Ultimately, she quit her job — causing her to lose her home and car — until her total lack of income allowed her to qualify for care. She credited her experiences for providing her with a deep empathy for those patients she serves.

After launching the patient-centered navigation component of the *Continuum of Care* model in 2018, more than 16,000 women in predominantly low-income communities of color have been educated, screened, treated, and navigated for breast and cervical cancer. The Promise Fund looks to double that impact in 2022 and reach all 80,000 uninsured women in Palm Beach County by 2024.

For information visit [www.PromiseFundOfFlorida.org](http://www.PromiseFundOfFlorida.org).

**FIRST ROW:** U.S. First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden; Dr. Michael Zinner and Ambassador Nancy Brinker; **SECOND ROW:** U.S. Congresswoman Lois Frankel and Chris Irizarry; Paulette Koch and David Brodsky; **THIRD ROW:** Cynthia Friedman and Maureen Mann; Sharon Prolow and Olga Villaverde; **FOURTH ROW:** Liliana Herrera and Karen Patti; Bo and Elizabeth Boulenger. PHOTOS: CAPEHART

