

Giving a life-saving gift

SKYLINE

Heart of the 'hood

NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, OLD TOWN, RIVER NORTH AND GOLD COAST

FELICIA DECHTER

It may not be the most glamorous holiday present, but it's one of the most important there can be for a woman — the gift of a mammogram.

That's why I'm eating up the fact that 90 uninsured and underinsured women will be getting just that, thanks to the Mag Mile-based Garrett Popcorn family. Garrett donated \$12,000 from sales of their October pink tin fundraiser to Dr. Sandy Goldberg's A Silver Lining Foundation, a nonprofit ensuring access and treatment options to underserved people affected by cancer.

It's the kind of present that I love best, the one that keeps giving, because as Dr. Goldberg pointed out about the mammograms and breast cancer: "It's not only the women, it's their families."

Now I know this isn't really cheery Christmas chatter, but according to the American Cancer Society, the chance of a woman having invasive breast cancer during her life is a little less than 1 in 8, which is scary. The chance of dying from breast cancer is about 1 in 35. Yet on the bright side is a true gift, that right now there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, according to ACS.

I applaud Garrett Popcorn's second year donating to A Silver Lining, which was founded in 2002 by Dr. Goldberg, who works in Streeterville as NBC-5's on air nutrition contributor. The generous and family-owned popcorn company also is involved in various charitable initiatives with the Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Gateway Green, Boys & Girls Club and more throughout the year.

"They were kind enough to have A Silver Lining," Dr. Goldberg said. "With this single check from Garrett, 90 women will have access to a free screening mammogram."

And after all, isn't that what the spirit of Christmas is all about?



Dr. Sandy Goldberg (left) and Megan Chody, an owner and director of community outreach for Garrett Popcorn.