

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH 'FUNDRAISING' STAMP BACK ON SALE AT POST OFFICES NATIONWIDE**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service today announced the resumption of sales of the popular Breast Cancer Research Semipostal stamp. The stamp has raised more than \$35 million for research since issued on July 29, 1998.

Sales were suspended Jan. 1, 2004, when the authorization under federal law to sell the fundraising semipostal stamp expired.

New legislation extends sales of the stamp through Dec. 31, 2005.

The Breast Cancer Research stamp joins two other semipostal stamps – the Heroes of 2001 and Stop Family Violence – offered by the Postal Service. All three are available at all Post Offices, online at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop) and by toll-free phone order at 1 800 STAMP-24.

Semipostal stamps are valid for postage at the one ounce First Class letter rate in effect at the time of purchase, with the difference between the sales price and postage value consisting of a tax-deductible contribution.

Pursuant to the initial legislation creating the Breast Cancer Research stamp, funds raised in connection with sales of this stamp, less the Postal Service's reasonable costs, are transferred to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense (DoD).

The self-adhesive, non-denominated stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Md., and illustrated by Whitney Sherman of Baltimore. The design includes a drawing of a female figure suggesting a "goddess of the hunt or fight" and the phrase "FUND THE FIGHT – FIND A CURE" flows left to right across the stamp in a clockwise, circular pattern.

Breast cancer is considered the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major ethnic group in the U.S. Experts say when breast cancer is diagnosed early (stages I and II), five-year survival rates are nearly 95 percent and there are better options for breast-conserving surgery (lumpectomy).

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For six decades, the Postal Service has issued stamps to help raise awareness for a variety of health and social issues including drug abuse, alcoholism, AIDS and environmental protection.

Current U.S. stamps and stationery, as well as a free catalog, are available by toll-free phone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. In addition, a selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available at the online Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). Custom-framed art prints of original stamp art are available at [www.postalartgallery.com](http://www.postalartgallery.com).

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service visits 141 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services. In addition, the Postal Service offers some of the most affordable postage rates in the world, and those rates won't change until at least 2006. The Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume — some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year — and serves 7 million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

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