
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Michigan Cancer Consortium Recognizes Kent County
Health Department Women's Health Network**

GRAND RAPIDS -- The Kent County Health Department (KCHD), in partnership with the Spectrum Health Betty Ford Breast Care Services Community Outreach Program, has received a **Spirit of Collaboration Award** from the Michigan Cancer Consortium. This award recognizes collaborations that impact cancer prevention and control activities in Michigan. Sally Cory, the Coordinator for the KCHD Women's Health Network and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, nominated the Community Outreach Program, based on the successes achieved by the collaboration.

"This project directly impacted health disparities by enhancing access for multiple underserved communities," said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "The dedication and perseverance of our staff with the Women's Health Network proves partnerships can make a difference. We can, through early detection, save lives."

More than two dozen organizations worked together on the Community Outreach Program, offering services in neighboring counties with mobile mammograms. Women received screening and treatment, regardless of economic barriers or citizenship status. Last year, 2,197 patients received screening mammograms, diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds and other tests. The results led to numerous prevention and treatment procedures, including core biopsies. This program detected 31 breast cancers, 3 cervical cancers and 2 endometrial cancers. Two patients under the age of 40 were diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Women's Health Network offers free mammograms, clinical breast exams, Pap smears and pelvic exams to women who qualify. Follow-up, referrals and treatment are also provided for qualifying participants. Women who qualify must earn less than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, be uninsured or underinsured. If you have an insurance that does not cover these services, you may qualify. Services also include blood pressure testing, weight, breast self-exam education, referrals to community resources, and medical referrals, if needed. For more information, go to http://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthDepartment/Health_Promotion/Womens_Health.htm or call (616) 632-7283.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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