

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Volunteer Highlight



The WVBCCSPP would like to recognize Melissa Magill, a long-time West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSPP) volunteer from Bridgeport, WV, for her years of leadership. Melissa has been very proactive in her community, participating in fundraisers and leading initiatives to raise awareness and donations for the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment (D&T) Fund.

Melissa began her stint as a member of the Harrison County Breast Cancer Awareness Committee in 2001 while working at a local Shoney's. That year, Shoney's conducted a fundraiser which donated \$800 to the Clarksburg Walk for Women. Every year since, Melissa has used her community connections to continue her

good deed. Her projects include: Shoney's Celebrity Servers, Applebees Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Breast Cancer Survivor Dinner, Tickled Pink Variety Show, Breast Health Basket Bingo, and Susan G. Komen's Volleyball for the Cure. For each event, Melissa collected donations for food and door prizes, recruited volunteers, and created excitement surrounding the cause at hand.

In 2010, Melissa spearheaded two new projects. In April, she coordinated an Elimination Dinner that raised over \$2,000 for the D&T Fund. Melissa plans to hold a similar dinner every other year (during election years) because of its success. The second project she organized was a motorcycle "Ride to Survive." The D&T Fund received over \$300 as a result of that event. Melissa hopes to make the motorcycle ride a bigger and better event next year.

The WVBCCSPP would also like to thank other members of the Harrison Breast Cancer Awareness Committee. They include: Wanda Kile, Melissa Spencer, Darian and Audry Spencer, Jackie Harris, Susan Marra, Cynthia Wotasek, Jim Harris, Rose Clark, Kathy Wagoner, Becky Mowbray, Charlene Burrows, and Etta Carnes.

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# A Special Thank You



Dear WVBCCSP and Volunteers,

My name is Linda Dempsey. In 2001, I knew I had a lump in my left breast, but I was a working hairstylist with no insurance. I was afraid to go to the doctor because I knew I would not be able to pay for my medical bills. When I finally went to the doctor, they found the cancer and told me about the Program. My family called the office and they began to help me immediately. I had a left breast mastectomy and the doctors removed 16 lymph nodes. I had six chemotherapy treatments. My cancer was the size of a cue ball and growing very fast; because of this, I still have a mediport (i.e. a devise that is implanted in the chest or arm for acceptance of an IV for chemotherapy) as a precaution. Not only did the WVBCCSP

help me medically, but they helped me emotionally. All the caring phone calls did so much to lift me up. Without this program, I would not be alive today because I would not have been able to afford the medical care I needed. Please continue the WVBCCSP for women in situations the same as mine. It is truly a lifesaver and a gift from God! Because of this program, I am able to see and spend precious time with my 6-year-old granddaughter. There are no words to express my appreciation for this program and the caring people involved!

Thank you,  
Linda Dempsey

## WISEWOMAN: A New Focus



With health care reform looming in the future, many changes are about to take place, but one thing that will remain the same is the need for screening. While Pap tests, pelvic exams, and breast exams are important screenings to remember, so is cardiovascular screening.

Cardiovascular disease is America's number one killer with more than half of its deaths among women. One in three adult women will develop some form of cardiovascular disease in their lifetime. That includes stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, and other diseases of the circulatory system.

The Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation (WISEWOMAN) program joined with the WVBCCSP two years ago to address this issue, and we need your help to spread the word about its free services. Women ages 40 to 64 years that are enrolled in the WVBCCSP qualify for free blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose screenings. To address abnormal results, providers offer lifestyle interventions, among other resources. Contact Sheryn Carey at 800-642-8522 for more information about the program and to find a WISEWOMAN provider near you.

## Save-the-Date:

*Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon*

Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Day Inn Hotel, Flatwoods, WV