

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Breast Cancer Awareness Day Celebrated Across West Virginia



**Breast Cancer Awareness Day Ribbon in Parkersburg**

### Points of Interest:

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities
- Walks for Women
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- Pink Ribbon Sunday
- Staff "Goodbye"

October 2003 marked the eighth annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day (BCAD) for the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP). The purpose of BCAD is to raise awareness about the need for breast cancer screening, honor breast cancer survivors and remember those who have died from the disease. Over 3,865 people statewide participated in many different activities in all fifty-five counties in the state. Activities such as wreath hang-

ings, proclamation signings, a football tailgating tent, and presentations were held. Some counties held their BCAD events during a breakfast, luncheon or dinner, while others held their event along with the county's Walk for Women...Take A Step Against Breast Cancer. BCAD stresses the importance of increasing awareness about early detection against breast cancer.

## 15 Walks for Women Held Throughout WV

There were fifteen regional Walks for Women...Take A Step Against Breast Cancer during October 2003. The Walks were held in Camden-on-Gauley, Clarksburg, Elkins, Grafton, Huntington, Keyser, New Martinsville, Welch, Clay, Peterstown, Wheeling,

Parkersburg, Grantsville, Ripley and Glenville. All money raised during these Walks go toward the WVBCCSP's Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. The Fund was established in 1996 to help WV women who need financial assistance with diagnostic and limited treat-

ment services for breast and cervical cancer. This year's walks were very successful, raising over \$55,400 for the Fund.

## WVBCCSP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The WVBCCSP held their Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, November 19, 2003 at the Days Inn in Flatwoods. Over ninety volunteers came to listen to Ms. Pat Moss, Department of Health and Human Resources Director of the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health and Constance Harvey, Program Director of the WVBCCSP and to celebrate the volunteers hard work. The luncheon honored volunteers for their dedication in reaching out to the women of West Virginia and stressing the importance of early detection. Volunteer Special Recognition Awards were given to Donna

Hudgins of Wood County, Ann Pahl and the Monongalia County volunteers, Jane Alt-meyer of Wheeling, Linda Rush of Moorefield, the Greenbrier County CEOS Club, Erma Meadows of Jumping Branch, Tridelphia Women's Club of Man, Imogene Wilmer of Lewis County, and Ruth Anne Wilkins of Boone County. New volunteers received a volunteer graduation certificate. Once again we would like to thank all of the WVBCCSP volunteers for their tireless commitment to the Program!



## Pink Ribbon Sunday

**“African-American women have the highest breast cancer mortality rate.”**

Pink Ribbon Sunday is a public education campaign that began in Houston, Texas as part of a Food and Drug Administration initiative. The Program encourages minority churches to educate their congregations about the use of mammography as an early breast cancer detection tool. Due to the fact that African American women have the highest breast cancer mor-

tality rate, the WVBCCSP has partnered with twenty-one African-American churches in the state for a Pink Ribbon Sunday Program. Churches are encouraged to develop their own activities. Some churches put information about breast cancer in their church bulletins, gave out the Program brochures along with pink ribbons and pink and white balloons. The WVBCCSP Cancer Infor-

mation Specialists also conducted educational presentations on breast cancer for some church leaders. It is believed that a large percentage of African-American women are diagnosed with breast cancer at a later, less treatable stage. The WVBCCSP is committed to reaching these women and getting them screened for breast cancer at an earlier stage.

## WVBCCSP Says “Goodbye”

Two of the WVBCCSP Cancer Information Specialists (CISs) are leaving the program and moving on to other endeavors. Maureen Barte, who has been a CIS for 6 years, left in December and Donna Riffle, who has been with the Program since its inception in 1991, left in January. Maureen covered Region 6 which includes Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler counties. Donna covered half of Region

7 which includes Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Tucker and Randolph counties. Those of us who have worked with these two remarkable women will miss their dedication and commitment to the Program. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and want them to know they will always be a part of the WVBCCSP family. Good luck to both!

