

# WEST VIRGINIA BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM (WVBCCSP)

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## Volunteer Newsletter

### Volunteer Highlight: Monroe Cancer Awareness Team

By: Shelly Dusic

Monroe County has the sixth highest breast cancer mortality rate in the state of WV. The Monroe County Cancer Awareness Team (the Team), made up of twenty-two county residents, eight of whom are cancer survivors, is working to change that. The Team works tirelessly to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention and the importance of screening. They support survivors, raise funds, educate their peers, and promote Bonnie's Bus Mobile Mammography visits. They want women to do all they can to protect their health.



Monroe County Farmer's Day Parade.

Each year this dynamic team hosts several events. Many events are fundraisers that supplement the WV Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. Walks and runs are popular fundraisers

in Monroe County bringing community members and cancer survivors together. Events such as the Annual Farmer's Day 5K Run and 3K walk, the Pott's Valley Rail Trail 5K Run, and the beloved Dog Walk emphasize the importance of physical activity. Not only do these runs and walks promote cancer prevention through wellness, they also demonstrate and encourage cancer survivors to lead an active life. Other fundraisers include a golf tournament and LuLaRoe Bingo featuring LuLaRoe clothing!

Partnerships strengthen the Team. Coordinating with local government officials, the Team holds an annual Hanging of the Wreath ceremony where luminaries are lit in honor and memory of those battling cancer. They also partner with families to promote Pinkout events at local ballgames in Union and Peterstown, as well as during the Trunk or Treat events in Union and Lewisburg.

An important part of the Team's work is providing education and outreach stations at community events including Farmer's Day, the Harvest Festival, Last Blast of Summer, and local ballgames. By educating women about resources like the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program at these events, they help women overcome barriers that may have been stopping them from getting screened. A spokesperson for the Team told us, "We love spreading awareness and showing love and support for those who have been impacted by this terrible disease. We love to provide hope, recognition, and honor those who have been affected by this life changing event." In Monroe County, the Team brings the gift of hope by sharing the important fact that early detection saves lives.

#### Members of the Monroe County Awareness Team

\* indicates cancer survivors

Cathy Abernathy \*  
Christen Bland  
Tammy Vass  
Tonia Fullen  
Paulette Kirby  
Jackie Winebrimmer  
Darla Miller  
Jennifer Farmer  
Melissa Griffith

Melinda Ford  
Cathy Neel  
Debbie Dunbar \* currently fighting  
Charlene Bostic \*  
Shelia Dunbar \*  
Dorothy Larew\*  
Jeanette Bare \*  
Debbie Boggs \*  
Doris McCurdy\*  
Donna Staten  
Michelle Ballard  
April Street

## October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By: Shelly Dusic

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) and in West Virginia that means that among the beautiful fall foliage, you also see a lot of pink. October showcases our volunteers, clinicians, partners, and friends that step up during BCAM to encourage women to get screened. All across the state people wear pink and help friends and neighbors promote the importance of breast cancer screening and early cancer detection.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2017 kicked off on September 12th with a Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon in Parkersburg hosted by the Wood County CEOS Breast Cancer Awareness Committee. Attendees wore pink, learned about breast cancer, honored survivors, mourned those who passed, and celebrated opportunities to help others access screening. Similar events occurred in every corner of the state.



Hancock County Walk for Women.

Volunteers coordinated eight Walks for Women for the WV Diagnostic and Treatment Fund (D&T Fund). The D&T Fund provides financial assistance to eligible women in need of certain diagnostic or treatment services. One hundred percent of monies raised go directly to the D&T Fund. Communities hosted 5K runs, auctioned purses, hosted luncheons and dinners, and even tagged cars to help the D&T Fund grow. All these events together raised over \$74,000 for the D&T Fund.

There were 42 educational displays this year ranging from Bras Across the Bridge, pink pumpkins, painting the town pink events, and hanging breast cancer awareness wreaths at courthouses. These pink symbols remind us to get screened for breast cancer. They stand as symbols of hope and support for breast cancer survivors and they help reduce the stigma of talking about breast health. These displays allow Mountain State volunteers to showcase their creativity while reminding women to take care of themselves.

As a federally funded program, the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) is required to raise \$1 for every \$3 of grant monies awarded. One way to do this is by recording volunteer time. The WVBCCSP has formulas for calculating the hours that volunteers offer. The program also tracks in-kind donations. An example of an in-kind donation is a gift card donated by a local café or a quilt donated for a raffle. Volunteer hours and in-kind donations help WVBCCSP meet its federal match. This year over \$222,442 was raised to meet match requirements for the federal grant.



Bra Display in Grafton.

When the chill of autumn touches the air, the leaves fall, and pink ribbons appear in your hometown, remember, those ribbons are a reminder to get screened. Thanks to all of your efforts in making BCAM 2017 a success, the WVBCCSP can continue to help women overcome barriers to breast cancer screening. Screening and early detection save lives and with your help there are more breast cancer survivors every day.



Pink Day at Emmanuel Assembly of God, Upper Glade, WV.