The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) celebrated its tenth annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day (BCAD) in October 2005. The purpose of BCAD is to raise awareness about the need for breast cancer screening, to honor breast cancer survivors and remember those who have died from the disease. Providers and volunteers, as well as staff of WVBCCSP, joined others in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Day events in all 55 counties. Some of those events included: Think Pink Brunch & Purse Auction in Monongalia County, Health Fairs, Crafts & Vendors in Monroe County, balloon launches, and white doves released in honor of breast cancer survivors in Quinwood and Lewisburg. Over 2,400 people participated in these activities.

Over $86,000.00 Raised for Screening and Treatment!

A record twenty-one regional Walks for Women...Take A Step Against Breast Cancer were held during October 2005. The Walks were held in Camden-on-Gauley, Clarksburg, Elkins, Grafton, Huntington, Keyser, New Martinsville, Welch, Franklin, Wheeling, Clay, Parkersburg, Ripley, Genville, Quinwood, Berkeley Springs, Lewisburg, Union, Mullens, Hundred/Burton, and Grantsville. Our first Dog Walk was held in Wellsburg. All money raised during these events support the WVBCCSP’s Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. This Fund helps WV women who need financial assistance with diagnostic and treatment services for breast and cervical cancer. The Walks for 2005 were once again a huge success and raised over $86,000.00 for the Fund!
WVBCCSP Volunteers Saluted!

The WVBCCSP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on November 16, 2005 at the Days Inn in Flatwoods. Over 110 volunteers were recognized for their dedication to helping promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Dee Ann Price, Clinical Services Coordinator with the WVBCCSP, thanked the volunteers for their efforts in reaching out to WV women and stressing the importance of early detection, as well as raising money for the WVBCCSP Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. Ms. Jennifer Weiss, Program Manager with the WV Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, gave an overview of comprehensive cancer and how the volunteers help increase awareness statewide.

First Annual Dog Walk in Wellsburg

Thirty-two walkers hit the streets of Wellsburg with their pets on October 1, 2005. Sandy Rogers, RN with the Brooke County Health Department and Bethany College Wellness Center, incorporated her love of animals to help benefit WV women. She thought that a dog walk would be a great way to raise money for the WV Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. Participants donated $10.00 and took a mile stroll with their pet. Sandy organized the entire event that consisted of live entertainment, door prizes, a breast cancer survivor speaker, and vendors. Participants were given a fire hydrant with “doggie clean up bags” in it, and a photo station was available so participants could treasure the memory with their pet by having a photo taken. Sanitarians and other health department staff cooked hotdogs and a local resident made a table cloth with paw prints and a large pink ribbon for people to sign in memory or honor of those with breast cancer. The Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority at Bethany College handed out pink ribbons. If you didn’t have a pet to walk, the Brooke County Animal Shelter brought six dogs for pet-less participants. One of the six dogs was even adopted that day. A total of $500.00 was collected for the WV Diagnostic and Treatment Fund.

Staff Update

WVBCCSP recently welcomed a new Cancer Information Specialist to the staff. Jody Waugh represents Region 3 which includes Putnam, Boone, Kanawha, and Clay counties. We are happy to welcome Jody.