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Volunteer Newsletter

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), traditionally observed in October, is set aside as a time for raising awareness about the importance of screening and early detection of breast cancer. BCAM got off to an early start this year when the first WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) Walk for Women was held on August 25, 2012.

This year there were a total of 19 Walks for Women, which raised over \$101,000 for the Diagnostic and Treatment (D & T) Fund. Many other fundraising events in October contributed an additional \$20,000 to the D & T Fund. Some of the new events held this year included: a flashlight sale, a dog walk, a jewelry party, a barn painting, and the creation of pink paper chains that were sold for a nickel a link. Two inventive high school seniors also helped raise money. One organized a duck race, and the other raised a lamb and sold it at the Jefferson County Fair. Both donated all proceeds to the D & T Fund. Several local businesses got involved in fundraising this year as well. Many volunteer groups held annual events in October, such as breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and bra decorating contests. Pink bracelets, wrist bands, and t-shirts were sold, and once again youth sports teams, coaches, and families got involved by wearing pink socks, helmet stickers, and hair bows. West Virginians supported BCAM by wearing pink and thinking pink.

BCAM wrapped up on November 13th, with the annual WVBCCSP Volunteer Luncheon in Flatwoods; over 170 people attended the event. Three breast cancer survivors shared their personal cancer stories of hope and encouragement, and two faithful WVBCCSP volunteers were remembered by their families and friends. The volunteers were treated to lunch, played Bingo, and listened to a report about the funds they raised for the D & T Fund. The 2010-2012 "Quilts of Hope" project raised \$13,130, and the beautiful quilts were displayed at the luncheon. The quilters gathered after lunch and chose the fabric for the 2012-2014 "Quilts of Hope."

BCAM 2012 was indeed very successful, due to the army of faithful, dedicated, WVBCCSP volunteers. Many uninsured WV women will benefit from their tireless work during October and throughout the year. The WVBCCSP thanks all who participated in BCAM activities this year.



Quilts on display at the Volunteer Luncheon





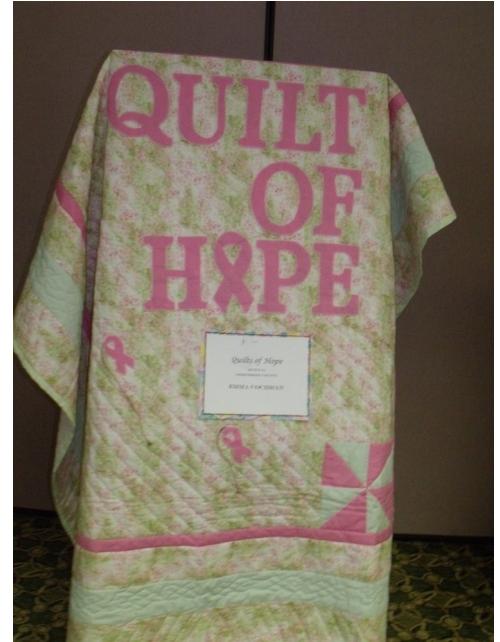
Remembering Emma and Lisa



Two special volunteers were remembered at the Volunteer Luncheon. Sharon Cope, former Cancer Information Specialist, shared her memories of Emma Cochran, a faithful volunteer and friend of the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP). Emma, a long time breast and cervical cancer survivor, was involved in the Quinwood Walks for Women and Breast Cancer Awareness Days. Emma's specialty was quilting. She made a quilt for the WVBCCSP "Quilts of Hope" project each year for over 15 years. She had completed her last quilt early in 2012, and it was raffled off at the Quinwood Walk for Women last October.

Lisa Perkins, a breast and ovarian cancer survivor, was remembered by Jean Tenney, former Cancer Information Specialist. Lisa's family also shared stories about her life and courageous fight against cancer. Lisa and her family started the Breast Cancer Awareness Day Celebration at the Post Office in Webster Springs and were dedicated supporters of the WVBCCSP. Lisa was also involved with the Ovarian Cancer Initiative and spoke passionately about breast and ovarian cancer wherever she went.

Both of these women will be missed by their family, friends, communities, and the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program.



Emma's Quilt on display at the Volunteer Luncheon



Quilts on display at the Volunteer Luncheon

