

# Grant allows hospital to give free mammograms

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in American women and is the most common cancer among American women. The chance of a woman developing invasive breast cancer at some time in her life is about 1-in-8 (12 percent).

This year, an estimated 200,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States. For those reasons, two local organizations have made it their goal to keep breast health on the minds of the citizens of Cannon, DeKalb, Warren, White and Van Buren counties throughout the year.

River Park Hospital and WCPI Radio, both located in Warren County, are pleased to announce they have received a grant from the Upper Cumberland affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for \$9,615 to put their goal into action.

The organizations have teamed up to begin the education and early detection pro-

gram called, "One Woman. One Life. One Difference."

"There is currently a program in Tennessee that provides free breast screenings to women who are 50 years and older, but the American Cancer Society recommends all women should begin receiving annual mammograms at age 40," said project director and WCPI board member Jeff Golden. "We decided to request the grant and start this program so we can fill in those gaps in order to provide eligible women in the area who are 40 to 65 years old with mammograms."

Studies have shown women in the Upper Cumberland are less likely than average American women to have a mammogram. As a result, the average stage at diagnosis in the Upper Cumberland is later than the rest of the state or the nation. Although there are breast health programs avail-



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able to poverty-level women in Tennessee, a lack of common breast health knowledge, age restrictions and lack of appropriate transportation, all make participation less likely for this demographic.

- According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the breast cancer mortality rate per 100,000 between 2000 and 2004 in the targeted counties were as follows: Warren County 36.4, DeKalb 27.5, White 28.5, state average 26.3 (information for Van Buren and Cannon County was not available).

- All of the reporting targeted counties have mortality rates higher than the state and national averages.

- In addition, percentages of the population living in poverty are as follows: Cannon 14.1, DeKalb 15.9, White 16.2, Van Buren 16.5, and Warren 16.6. The Tennessee average is 15

percent.

River Park Hospital will provide 125 free mammograms to women in Warren, White, Van Buren, DeKalb and Cannon counties who are between the ages of 40 and 65 and who meet the poverty guidelines as dictated by the state of Tennessee.

To learn more about the program or its guidelines, and to schedule your appointment, call Marcy in the Radiology Department at River Park Hospital at 815-4107 Monday through Friday.

To qualify, applicants must be able to show proof of income and proof of residency. Family history or a pre-existing condition is not required.

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