

# Grant to fund mammograms

## Program continues service started in '06

The Martinsville Area Community Foundation announced last week that they will continue funding the Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness' mammogram assistance for uninsured women.

The coalition started the program in 2006 with grant funding from the Hermes Fund of the Martinsville Area Community Foundation. Memorial Hospital and its Radiologists offer a discounted rate in order to provide about 50 eligible women with an annual screening exam.

This \$5,100 grant was funded through the Martinsville Area Endowment Fund of the Martinsville Area Community

Foundation.

Although breast cancer affects both men and women, women are increasingly more likely to develop the disease, according to a coalition release. Screening is one of the most important preventative health measures a woman can take.

There are no known ways to prevent the disease, but experience has shown that treatments are most effective when a cancer is detected early, while still small and contained, and before it has invaded other tissues.

Women aged 40-49 should have a mammogram every 1-2 years. Women aged 50 years and older should have it done every year. Despite evidence that regular mammography screenings can reduce breast cancer death, many women fail to receive a yearly mammogram or adhere to rec-

ommended guidelines for routine ongoing screenings.

"All women should be able to have a yearly mammogram; that's why I think this program is such a wonderful asset to our community," said Tammy Clifton, R.N., with Bassett Family Practice. "Far too many women are going without their yearly mammogram because of a lack of insurance and/or not being able to afford it. The cost in the long run will be so much greater without the accessibility of these exams, and it is particularly appropriate that we are able to highlight this program during National Women's Health Week."

For more information on the Mammogram Assistance Program, contact the Ridgeway Education Center at 956-2983 ext. 300.

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