



Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

of Northwest Michigan

July 1, 2010

Dear Editor:

The Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention recently issued its first report, providing highlights of the organization's first five years of raising and distributing funds to fight breast cancer in the county. As the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is the recipient of nearly \$100,000 since 2004, I'd thank all of the High Tea volunteers on behalf of the agency and our clients.

High Tea grants support the Health Department's Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP), which provides free mammograms and Pap tests to uninsured and underinsured women. The BCCCP covers further diagnostic testing and if needed, treatment for breast or cervical cancer through enrollment in the Medicaid Treatment Act, but there are very limited funds for community outreach.

With funding from High Tea grants, we've launched an intensive community outreach program that includes billboards, print ads, and other promotions and gas gift cards to offset the costs of traveling out of the county for mammograms and doctors' appointments. As a result, the number of women enrolled in BCCCP in Antrim County has grown from just 22 in 2004 to 200 in 2009, nearly a 10-fold increase. The more women who get annual mammograms, the more cancers doctors can identify at earlier stages—when they may be easier to treat and hopefully, cure.

The High Tea also helps our breast cancer patients. They've provided funds to help patients with important supplies not covered by their health insurance plans, like wigs.

In addition, the High Tea assures everyone in Antrim County who is not eligible for BCCCP and wants or needs a mammogram—no matter sex, age, or insurance status--receives a mammogram. Thank you Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention! Your work is truly saving lives.

Sincerely,

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