



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Knox County Health Department

1361 West Fremont Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401

## PINK PARTY!!!

To celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Knox County Health Department and OSF St. Mary Medical Center are teaming up this year to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Pink Party," on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Soangataha Country Club, from 5:00pm-7:00pm. The party will include speakers, food, a silent auction, health information and lots of fun. Money raised at the event will go to the Inter-Community Cancer Center, Illinois Cancer Care, and Medical and Surgical Specialist for transportation funds.

More and more women are getting mammograms to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages. As a result, breast cancer deaths are on the decline. Encourage the women in your life to get mammograms on a regular basis. Did you know there are still women who do not take advantage of early detection at all and others who do not get screening mammograms and clinical breast exams at regular intervals. Did you know?

- Women age 65 and older are less likely to get mammograms than younger women, even though breast cancer risk increases with age.
- Hispanic women have fewer mammograms than Caucasian women and African American women.
- Women below poverty level are less likely than women at higher incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.

The good news is that the "Pink" message is reaching women in Knox County. According to the 2010 Community Analysis conducted by the Health Systems Research of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, in 2007 nearly nine in ten or 89.7% Knox County women ages 40 and older reported they'd had a mammography exam. And 72.6 % of women in the County had a mammogram within the past year.

Part of the reason those numbers are so high is because of the availability of breast and cervical exams to all women whether or not they have health insurance. The Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program helps women between the ages of 35 and 64 who live in Knox, Warren, and Henderson Counties who have no insurance. Free clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, pap tests and mammograms are available to women who qualify.

The Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program provides a qualified woman with full health care benefits through Medicaid at no cost. Women screened through the program and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer may be eligible for free health coverage through Medicaid, and that coverage would extend throughout the duration of treatment. In addition, Medicaid will cover all of a woman's medical needs including treatment for non-cancer related medical services.

"We can help women get on the medical card, or get further mammogram screenings and biopsies." "The key to mammography screening is that it be done routinely – once is not enough," states Erin Olson, Wellness Promotion Program Supervisor.

Please join us on October 11<sup>th</sup> for an evening of food, fun and breast cancer awareness at the Pink Party!! If you have questions, contact the Knox County Health Department at (309) 344-2224