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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IS A GOOD TIME FOR A MAMMOGRAM

As part of its efforts to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness this month, the Westchester County Department of Health reminds women age 40 and older to remember the importance of routine breast cancer screening. The county has services available to make sure women don't skip this important health screening because of insufficient insurance.

"Each year approximately 1,000 women in Westchester County are diagnosed with breast cancer," said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of Health for Westchester County. "A woman's best chance of beating breast cancer is through early detection and prompt treatment."

Starting at age 40, all women should get routine mammograms every one to two years. Women ages 50 to 69 should remain especially vigilant. Women at high risk for breast cancer, based on their personal or family history, may need to get mammograms and breast cancer screening at earlier ages and more frequently.

Westchester County Government is also serving as a Flagship Sponsor with the American Cancer Society this year for the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk," which will be held on Sunday, October 18, at Manhattanville College in Purchase. Hundreds of County employees will walk and more than 40 County divisions are holding various fund raising events to support this cause. Last year, Westchester County raised \$38,000 to help make breast cancer a thing of the past. To join this year's walk or to make a donation to the American Cancer Society, visit <http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/westchester>.

Women who are uninsured or underinsured can reach out to the Cancer Services Program of Westchester County for assistance with getting a breast exam and a mammogram. The Westchester County Department of Health is the lead agency in Westchester County for this program, which is funded by the New

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York State Department of Health to provide free or low cost breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings for uninsured and underinsured adults who qualify for the program. Services are delivered through a network of primary care medical providers, neighborhood health centers, hospitals, radiology sites, gastroenterologists, breast surgeons and community partners.

Over the past year, the Health Department's Cancer Screening Program has provided close to 3,500 clinical breast exams and more than 1,500 screening mammograms free of charge to medically underserved women in Westchester County.

For the fourth year in a row, the Cancer Services Program of Westchester County has received a grant from The Greater New York City Affiliate of *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* to provide additional assistance to women who need follow-up services after an abnormal breast cancer screening. The grant allows for a clinical nurse coordinator who works with women to address financial, transportation and language barriers that may affect their ability to get follow-up care.

Throughout the past 25 years, Susan G. Komen for the Cure has played a critical role in every major advance in the breast cancer movement. Because of the organization's efforts to establish the importance of early detection in finding and treating breast cancer, more women nationwide are now protecting themselves against breast cancer.

For more information about cancer screening services, call the Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000 or visit www.westchestergov.com/health. A recorded information line at (914) 813-5356 is also available to provide information about these services 24 hours-a-day.