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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IS A GOOD TIME FOR A MAMMOGRAM**  
**A message from the Healthy Living Partnership of Westchester County**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Healthy Living Partnership of Westchester County (HLP) would like to remind women in Westchester that breast cancer screening saves lives and is available to all regardless of income or health insurance status.

“Breast cancer is the third leading cause of cancer deaths among women,” said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of Health for Westchester County. “Routine breast exams and annual mammograms are the best way to prevent many of those deaths.”

The Westchester County Health Department coordinates the HLP, which provides free breast cancer screening and diagnostic services for uninsured and underinsured women in Westchester County. The Partnership is comprised of primary care and women’s health centers, hospitals, radiology centers, specialty providers, and community-based organizations. Colorectal cancer screening is also available through the HLP.

To arrange for free cancer screening services offered through the HLP, uninsured and underinsured Westchester County residents should contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

Services provided through the HLP are making a difference in the lives of many women who would otherwise not be able to afford much needed cancer screening and diagnostic services. As one of the program patients expressed after a routine mammogram provided through the HLP identified her breast cancer, “I was working two jobs without any health insurance... (the Healthy Living Partnership) guided me through the process from beginning to end with caring, compassion, and extreme professionalism...I was able to obtain

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Medicaid insurance, giving me great comfort and reassurance. I don't know where I would be today.”

Over the past calendar year, the HLP has provided approximately 4,000 clinical breast exams and more than 1,000 screening and diagnostic mammograms free of charge to medically underserved women in Westchester County.

Services provided by the Healthy Living Partnership include facilitating health care access to uninsured patients recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the past year the Partnership has completed 12 Medicaid Treatment Act (MTA) applications in addition to seven MTA re-certifications for patients who were diagnosed with cancer through the program.

For the second year in a row, the HLP has been awarded a competitive grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which assists in preventing, identifying, and treating breast cancer among Westchester County residents.

For more information on the HLP program, call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000 or visit [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health).