

July 8, 2010

Media contact: Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852; cell 941-302-1058;
Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us

Program contact: Theresa Merrill, 941-861-3381; Theresa_Merrill@doh.state.fl.us

Sarasota County Health Department receives Susan G. Komen for the Cure grant

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Florida Suncoast Affiliate, has awarded the Sarasota County Health Department a grant of \$25,032 to support the continuation of the Be Smart Mammogram Program.

The Be Smart Mammogram Program allows eligible women in southern Sarasota County to receive a free, annual screening mammogram, breast health education and follow-up care, if needed.

Women who meet the eligibility requirements listed below may participate in the program without a physician's order:

- 40 to 49 years of age
- reside in southern Sarasota County (Osprey and areas south to North Port).
- have no source of health insurance or means to pay for a screening mammogram.

Mammograms help detect breast cancer and can save lives. The American Cancer Society and National Institutes for Health recommend that women, ages 40 and older, have a regularly scheduled mammogram. Women are advised to talk with their health care provider about how often they should receive a mammogram.

"The women served through the Be Smart program have appreciated the caring and supportive staff, and have peace of mind in being able to access mammogram screening and follow-up medical treatment, when necessary," said the program's manager, Theresa Merrill, a registered nurse.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure fully funds the Be Smart Mammogram Program.

For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the Be Smart Mammogram Program, call the South County Community Clinic at 941-861-3381.

For information on breast cancer, visit the National Cancer Institute at <http://www.cancer.gov/>, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) site at <http://www.cdc.gov/>, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure at <http://www.komen.org>, and the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org>.