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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

October 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREAST CANCER PROGRAM IS A LIFESAVER

DUPAGE COUNTY—October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the DuPage County Health Department reminds women that early detection and regular testing are the best defenses against breast cancer.

The Health Department offers an important program to women who are underinsured or have no health insurance. The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) offers free screenings to detect breast cancer or cervical cancer, both of which have better treatment results if detected early. Although IBCCP is available throughout Illinois, the Health Department only serves DuPage County residents. For more information about IBCCP and enrollment forms, visit dupagehealth.org.

In 2016, the Health Department's IBCCP served 657 clients, and provided 1,386 screenings, including breast exams, mammograms and pelvic/pap exams.

There are more than 3.1 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, including women being treated and those who have completed treatment.

Women should be aware that:

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women.
- Hispanic women have fewer mammograms than Caucasian women and African American women.
- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Hispanic women.
- Women below poverty level are less likely than women at higher incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.

Applications for IBCCP are available at the DuPage County Health Department's Public Health Centers in Addison, Lombard, Westmont, West Chicago and Wheaton. For more information, call (630) 682-7400.

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