

The *Lisa Boccard Fund* for Breast Cancer Victims

Many women live in denial of the thought of being a breast cancer victim. Unfortunately, the reality is that every woman is a potential target of breast cancer regardless of age or family history. Fortunately, one of the best allies for survival is early diagnosis. That's why annual mammogram screenings are recommended. But, with the increase of uninsured women in the community, mammograms can be out of reach for many.

Coral Springs Medical Center has made it possible to serve those needy women by offering free mammograms, ultrasounds and biopsies. In 2008, more than 200 women received free mammograms. Of those, eight patients were diagnosed with breast cancer. Thereafter, they received the proper breast medical care based on their cancer stage.

For these eight women early detection may be a life saving diagnosis, and it wouldn't have been made possible without support from the Lisa Boccard Fund, created by Vice Mayor Vincent Boccard and his wife, Terry, to honor his sister, Lisa Boccard, and her ongoing fight against breast cancer. The Boccards teamed up with Coral Springs Medical Center's Women's Diagnostic & Wellness Center to ensure women in financial need receive proper breast medical care, including early detection screenings.

Lorna Webster, 63, of Margate, is one of the fortunate ones who benefited from this program after years of being unable to afford health insurance. In October, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately, it was detected early enough that it hasn't spread beyond her left breast.

Webster said, "I was one of those people who took my health for granted because I felt and looked healthy without any family history of breast cancer. So, I didn't worry about having a mammogram for three years, until one day I felt a lump. Now going through chemotherapy, I often wonder what my prognosis would have been had I had my mammogram a year or two earlier." Now Webster urges women to be proactive about their health and get annual mammograms. "With programs like the Lisa Boccard Fund, there is no excuse not to get your annual mammogram. I am so grateful because it saved my life."

Also teaming up to raise funds for the Lisa Boccard Fund are two physicians, Dr. Mark Shachner, medical director of the Women's Diagnostic & Wellness Center, and Dr. David Silver, a gastrointestinal and internal medicine physician. They cofounded the Annual Race for Women's Wellness. Now gearing up for its fourth year, hundreds of local residents are expected to lace up their sneakers for a 5 kilometer walk/run on March 14th, in hopes of raising more than \$15,000 to

provide free mammograms, breast imaging, and biopsies to women who otherwise would be unable to afford to get them.

Dr. Shachner said, "The community needed something like this. There are too many women in need of proper breast care from start to finish, but fall short because of the lack of financial means. We are thankful that with joint efforts from the Lisa Boccard Fund and our Annual Race for Women's Wellness, we are able to offer women in the community a priceless gift."



Coral Springs Medical Center offers digital mammography which gives radiologists enhanced image quality for detecting and characterizing suspicious or obscure lesions. For high risk patients, breast MRI can detect minuscule breast cancers that mammography or breast exams might miss. Breast MRI is a breast-imaging technique that captures multiple cross-sectional pictures of the breast and combines them to create detailed, 2-D and 3-D pictures. Breast MRI is performed when doctors need more information than a mammogram, ultrasound, or clinical breast exam can provide. It works regardless of breast size, density, patient age, presence of implants, and/or prior surgery.

If you or your business would like to support the 2009 Race for Women's Wellness, please contact Coral Springs Medical Center. If you or someone you know would like to register for the race or want information, log on to www.browardhealth.org or www.usaactive.com. Women in financial need who require breast health care must meet specific financial requirements and live in northwest Broward County to be eligible for free services. Detailed information is available by calling Coral Springs Medical Center's Women's Diagnostic & Treatment Center.