



NEWS



<http://health.mcleancountyil.gov>

www.facebook.com/mcleanhealth

www.twitter.com/mcleanhealth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2016

CONTACT: Lisa Slater
(309) 888-5489 (office)
(309) 838-1599 (cell)

Transportation Issues No Longer A Barrier In Getting To Breast Health Appointments

Health Department's Worship In Pink Initiative Includes Free Transportation Component

BLOOMINGTON, IL- The McLean County Health Department, through a partnership with the YWCA's Medivan program, is now able to offer free transportation to-and-from medical breast health appointments to individuals who previously had no way of accessing breast health services due to a lack of transportation. A \$10,000 grant from the Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen will provide the money needed for the health department to include a transportation component in the *Worship In Pink* initiative.

Through *Worship In Pink*, the health department reaches out to members of churches in rural and minority communities where there are often lower rates of breast health education and mammography. Health Promotion staff members have been presenting information about the initiative to area church leaders as a way to open the lines of communication about breast health, promote breast cancer education, and celebrate the lives of those who have fought breast cancer. In collaboration with the church leaders, individual *Worship In Pink* events will be scheduled for each faith-based organization tailored to meet their own community's needs. The resulting events typically include a presentation about ways to prevent breast cancer, education about community resources, and testimonials from congregation members. There are also games with prizes and light refreshments served.

-MORE-

An estimated 500 McLean County residents will be exposed to breast cancer education through the Worship In Pink program, increasing the rates of women receiving mammograms and mitigating the prognosis of breast cancer. According to the Susan G. Komen Organization, women over the age of 40 should be getting a mammogram every year. Before the grant period ends, the Worship In Pink program will be evaluated through surveys of church members and congregation leaders.

McLean County residents needing to arrange transportation to their mammogram appointments are asked to contact Katie McHugh at the health department, (309) 888-5954.

For more information about breast health, visit the McLean County Health Department's website at:

<http://health.mcleancountyil.gov>. The McLean County Health Department is dedicated to the prevention and control of disease through health promotion, early intervention and health protection within the county. Follow us on Twitter (@McLeanHealth) and "Like" us on Facebook (Facebook.com/McLeanHealth), for information about public health affecting you.

###