

March 2010

Moving Witness Forward



The Witness Project in South Carolina

South Carolina Cancer Alliance Breast and Female Cancers Workgroup -Community Education Subcommittee

Conference: Moving Witness Forward: Lessons Learned & New Networks

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The South Carolina Cancer Alliance (SCCA) continues to collaborate with agencies, groups and individuals to spearhead cancer prevention, education and training programs for South Carolinians.

More than 120 individuals braved an ice and snow storm to participate in a SCCA conference on Saturday, January 30, 2010 held at the Brookland Baptist Church Banquet and Conference Center in Columbia, SC. The purpose was to help African-American women become engaged in the Witness Project, which focuses on preventing breast and cervical cancer death. The great attendance demonstrated that individuals

are committed to this challenge.

Facilitated by Dr. Rachel Mayo from Clemson University, the day was filled with enthusiasm from participants statewide eager to learn how they could become trained to conduct and promote the Witness Project in their communities. Participants included African American women trained as Witness Role Models (WRM) and Lay Health Advisors (LHA). These volunteers network to provide facts about breast and cervical cancers, provide information about available services and teach Breast Self- Examination (BSE).

Dr. Deborah Erwin, Co-Founder of the National Witness Project,

was the keynote speaker. Program panelists included Drs. James Hebert, Swann Adams and Heather Brandt with the University of South Carolina Cancer Prevention Control Program (CPCP) and the South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network (SCCDCN), Dr. Marvella Ford with the Medical University of South Carolina, and Ms. Vonda Evans with the American Cancer Society/Best Chance Network.

A sincere thank you to all that attended this outstanding conference in lieu of the weather advisory forecast.

THANK YOU!

The purpose of the January 30th Witness Summit was to spread the word and the program around South Carolina. Forty-six volunteers signed up to help accomplish this. The # of people who volunteered included: trainers (17),

program participants (7), Lay Health Advisors (24), Witness Role Models (10), local community program leaders (9), individuals to help organize and coordinate Witness Programs (7), & to Sponsor a Program (12)

With your help we will link together volunteers with program opportunities so that many more women can be educated about the importance of screening and prevention of breast and cervical cancer. Please stay tuned!



Upcoming Witness Project Community Presentations

Our Witness Project volunteers are educating people about breast and cervical health in their communities. Join them for a community presentation near you. If you would like to attend call the contact persons for more information.

Contact: Minister Barbara Mavins
(803) 534.6690

Saturday, March 20, 10:00a.m.
Providence Baptist Church
320 Mount Olive Road
Santee, SC 29142
Contact Person:

Minister Barbara Mavins
(803) 534-6690

Saturday, March 20, 11 am
New Beginning Outreach Baptist Church

Address: 519 Rochester Hwy
Seneca, SC 29672
Contact : Rasheda Walker
(864) 275-4917

Saturday, March 20, 10:00a.m.
Providence Baptist Church
320 Mount Olive Road
Santee, SC 29142
Contact Person:
Minister Barbara Mavins
(803) 534-6690



Anjosia Brown, Witness Trainer, demonstrates with the breast beads.

National Witness Project

Additional Information for the Witness Project can be found at

<http://www.thenationalwitnessproject.org>.



Vonda Evans & Kimberly Comer

Saturday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
16 Greenknoll Lane
Fort Motte, SC 29135
Contact: Bettie Caldwell (803) 536-9270

Saturday, March 13, 10:00a.m.
Gospel Temple of Deliverance
140 George Patton Street, SW
Orangeburg, SC 29115



Newly trained Witnesses practice a mock community presentation.

Are you interested in becoming a Witness Role Model (WRM) or a trained Witness Lay Health Advisor (LHA)? There are plans to have a training in Charleston, SC during April. The training will be held at the Charleston Breast Center. For more information, contact Cherry Seabrook at (843) 722-6245.

SCCDCN Witness Project Activity

In September 2009, the SCCDCN at USC received supplemental funding from the National Cancer Institute through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand the Witness Project to three additional State Baptist Young Woman's Auxiliary Health Ministry Regions, which are regions 3, 5, and 6. A training was held December 12, 2010 in Chester, SC with 20 individuals trained as LHAs

and WRMs. On February 20th in Florence, 24 individuals were trained. Another training has been scheduled for February 27 in Columbia. The newly trained LHAs and WRMs are conducting community educational programs their respective communities. Trainings from the grant are now at capacity. For more information contact Kimberly Comer at the SBYWA at (803) 988-1014.

Snapshot of the Witness Project in SC

During its' third year of effort (2007) the USC SCCDCN, a community participatory research cancer disparities program, identified funds to bring the Witness Program to SC. Under the guidance of Dr. Rachel Mayo of Clemson University, and Dolores B. Scott of the State Baptist Young Woman's Auxiliary (YWA) Health Ministry of the Woman's Baptist Education and Missionary Convention, 22 upstate YWAs were trained as LHAs or WRMs in January, 2008. In March 2009, 5 of these YWAs were further trained as trainers and then participated in training other YWAs in April 2009. Since that time, numerous additional Witness Project trainings and

presentations have occurred with funding from the Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G. Komen For the Cure and SCCA. Also, a Witness Project training funded by the Low Country Komen Foundation occurred in Charleston, SC, in 2007, sponsored by Second Chance, who work closely with the Charleston Breast Clinic. To date about 100 SC women have been trained as Witness presenters and over 2000 SC African American women have participated in WP education programs. These Witness presentations have been organized, coordinated and facilitated mainly by the SCCA and its' many partners. Generally, the Witness training programs have

been organized and coordinated by members of this team, but the presenters are trained and experienced Witness Program YWA volunteers. Key to the success of the Witness Program, YWA affiliated churches are instrumental in providing access to and recruiting women. Now, as this great program expands, more volunteers are needed to help organize and find funding for additional programs. To reach all that need to hear about breast and cervical cancer prevention and screening, local volunteers take charge and make this a truly local movement. Were saving our sisters. Please help.



Over 30 WRMs and LHAs were trained in Bamberg on December 5, 2009.

A training for 30 women to become Lay Health Advisors and Witness Role Models could cost approximately \$5,000.

The Cost of a Witness Training



Witness trainees string breast beads used to educate women about lumps.

A group or organization interested in hosting a Witness Project training can expect the following costs:

Each training requires the use of breast models, breast beads and other educational materials. Notebooks, copies of materials and resources all need to be provided. DVDs also are used in the trainings and need to be provided to the participants. Each training is facilitated by at least 2 trainers. The training is a full day so breakfast and lunch are also important to consider in the cost.

Quick Breakdown of Costs

2 trainers @ \$150/each
 Travel expenses for trainers - *cost varies*
 Breast models \$100/each
 Breast beads \$6/each
 Notebooks/copies/DVDs: \$12 per person
 Breakfast & lunch - *cost varies*

If groups choose to have trainees check out the models, costs could be decreased considerably.



Dr. Rachel Mayo, Witness Evaluator and Trainer, speaks at the January conference.



South Carolina Cancer Alliance

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Our vision is to make South Carolina a national leader in cancer control by bringing together a powerful and diverse network of individuals.

The mission of the SCCA is to reduce the impact of cancer on ALL people in South Carolina. Working together, we can fulfill that mission. Come join us.

SCCA Working with the Witness Project

The Witness Project in South Carolina began as a partnership between Clemson University and the SC Cancer Disparities Community Network. The project has been the focus of the SCCA Breast and Female Cancer's Community Education Subcommittee since 2008. Using the support of SCCA and the Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G Komen for the Cure funds and with the collective action of partners statewide, the committee has been able to host 5 trainings, train over 100 Witnesses and Lay Health Advisors and touch over 3,000 women through community presentations!

Our Partners: Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center, Hollings Cancer Center, Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Best Chance Network, National Cancer Institute/Cancer Information Service, American Cancer Society, South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network, Clemson University, University of South Carolina Cancer Prevention Control Program, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, Second Chance, Carolina Community Based Health Supports Networks and the State Baptist Young Women's Auxiliary

Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grant Successes

The SCCA Community Education Subcommittee was just informed they have been granted their second round of funding from the Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G Komen for the Cure! The newest project will train Lay Health Advisors and Witness Role Models in Hampton and Colleton counties and also begin a Train-the-trainer program so that the work can expand more quickly to other parts of the state. The current project trained a total of 63 LHA and WRMs in Allendale, Bamberg and Orangeburg counties. The newly trained witnesses have hosted community presentations in their churches and have helped to educate over 2,000 women about breast and cervical cancer.

Witness trainings were held in



Bamberg in May and in December of 2009. Facilitators Pastor Talley (pictured), Anjosia Brown and Evelyn Jones assisted Dr. Rachel Mayo in the 8 hour project trainings. Breast models and breast beads are used to teach women to look for lumps and demonstrate the sizes of lumps that go undetected when a woman has not

been screened. Women are also taught about resources in their area for breast and cervical screenings.

Another Witness Project grant was awarded to the YWA for outreach in Horry County. For more information about the Lowcountry Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, visit: <http://www.komenlowcountry.org/>