



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE
February 18, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Safeway customers and Lewistown Drag Racers Association donate to
Cancer Screening Program of Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department**

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Helena—Earlier this month, Safeway contributed \$6,674.16 to the Cancer Screening Program at the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department. This money was donated by Safeway customers at check stands and via contests last October as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month fundraising. In addition to the money received from Safeway, the Lewistown Drag Racers Association also contributed \$386.85 to the program. The Association raised money through a “Racers for the Pink” event and also by holding a car wash.

The Cancer Screening Program of Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department coordinates free annual wellness exams, Pap tests, and mammograms for women who meet the following criteria:

- Residents of Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and Meagher counties
- 30 to 64 years old (40 to 64 for mammograms)
- Family income is 200% of the federal poverty level or below (for example, \$37,060 annual income for a family of three)
- Do not have health insurance that would cover the entire cost of these services.

In addition, the program now offers colorectal cancer screening in the form of take-home stool cards and colonoscopies to men and women age 50 – 64 who do not have colorectal cancer symptoms and who meet the same criteria mentioned above.

Participants who qualify may use any enrolled health care provider, which includes most local primary care physicians. The federal and state funded program pays the entire cost or the cost that is not covered by insurance.

“This money is important because it will be used to help women who meet the income guidelines but do not meet the age guidelines or for some other reason don’t exactly qualify for government funding,” explained Melissa Baker, program coordinator. “For example, a woman in her thirties who finds a breast lump and needs diagnostic services.”

Although new screening guidelines for mammograms have made recent headlines, the program encourages women from age 40 to consult with their provider to see if they need a mammogram.

“We encourage women to reapply each year,” said Baker. “Early screening and detection can find cancers when they are most treatable.”

This is the 9th year that Safeway has contributed to the program and the first year that the Lewistown Drag Racers Association has donated to this program. While the drag race club is based in Lewistown, some of the women in the club are from White Sulphur Springs, which is one of several communities served by the Cancer Screening Program of Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department.

The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.

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