

DATE: March 3, 2009

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Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

America is making progress in the fight against colorectal cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, it still remains the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States. The good news is that colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can actually be prevented through the use of regular screening tests.

Screening saves lives. It's time for our community to become more aware of the need to get screened for colorectal cancer, especially for people 50 and older.

Colorectal cancer screening allows doctors to find and remove growths (called "polyps") before they become cancerous, thereby preventing cancer. These tests can also detect cancer at an earlier, more curable stage. Unfortunately, nearly half of all Americans are not getting the recommended screenings they need. Many deaths expected from colorectal cancer this year could be avoided with wider use of proven screening tests.

If you are uninsured and over the age of 50, you may be eligible for a free colorectal screening kit. The screening kit is quick, simple and easy to use. It can be done in the privacy of your home, and no special diet is required.

If you have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps, are uninsured, and over 50, the Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery Counties can help you to get the screenings you need.

The Cancer Services Program also offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings if you are uninsured and eligible.

If you would like more information on our program in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, please contact Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at 770-7516.