

Letter to the Editor

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Mother's Day Reminder

With Mother's Day upon us, I write this letter with the wish that everyone will think about their own well-being. Mother's Day reminds us how important the people in our lives are.

As a young woman, it is my *hope* that I will not have to be concerned with breast cancer in my near future. However, with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer, it's my *reality* that I need to be concerned now. My mom is a survivor of breast cancer. My aunt and grandmother were not as lucky. My mom's saving grace? Early detection. The goal of early detection is to catch the cancer before symptoms are present. The further along breast cancer is, the more likely it is to have spread to other parts of the body. My mother caught her cancer early. Thanks to early detection, my mom was able to discover the cancer and treat it. And thanks to early detection, my mother will be around to play with her grandchildren...and to pursue her comedy career!

The Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery Counties offers free breast, cervical (40-64) and colorectal (men and women 50-64) cancer screenings for individuals without insurance. According to the American Cancer Society, one third of all Americans, and nearly two thirds of all low income Americans, are uninsured at some point throughout the year.

Please, if you are between the ages of 40 and 64 and are without insurance, call the Cancer Services Program today to schedule your appointment, so that you too can be a survivor. One phone call can save your life. Enrollment is confidential and easy. Please contact Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at (518) 770-7516 for more information or to pre-qualify for the program.