

Letter to the Editor

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Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery Counties Recognizes National Minority Cancer Awareness Week

On this, National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, Fulton and Montgomery Counties Cancer Services Program would like to raise the awareness of the community's men and women on the FREE breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings they offer to individuals without insurance.

According to the American Cancer Society, this Week is an opportunity to heighten awareness of the unequal cancer burden for ethnic and medically underserved populations who are at a greater risk of developing cancer. Cultural factors, including language spoken, have been shown to influence cancer information-seeking behaviors.

As the demographic face of America changes, it only magnifies the importance of addressing these disparities within the various special population groups. The Cancer Services Program hopes to serve more people who have not yet been reached by our program and ultimately these screenings will save more lives.

The New York State Department of Health states that one in three persons will be diagnosed with cancer some time in their life, and it will eventually affect three out of every four families.

The NYS Department of Health operates these unique programs using local initiatives, such as the Cancer Services Program, throughout the State to increase the availability of cancer education and routine screenings to the uninsured populations age 50-64. The program increases the prevention and early detection of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer and the importance of these screenings. Early detection saves lives and money.

If you are uninsured and between the ages of 40 and 64, or if you would like more information on the Fulton and Montgomery Counties Cancer Services Program's services, please contact Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at (518) 770-7516 or by email at hagadorns@smha.org.