

Letter to the Editor

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Take time to cherish cancer survivors

The Cancer Services Program Partnerships (CSPs) provide a critical service to New Yorkers in need. The program offers free breast and cervical screenings to women 40-64, and colorectal cancer screenings to men and women 50-64 if you do not have health insurance. These screenings are offered locally by the Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

Since 1991, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) program has provided more than 7.8 million screening exams to underserved women, diagnosed over 35,000 breast cancers, more than 114,000 precancerous cervical lesions, and over 2,100 cervical cancers.

I have been working with the Cancer Services Program for a year now, and with this information in mind, I began thinking about National Cancer Survivors Day on Sunday, June 7th. This is a great opportunity to appreciate and cherish our friends and family members who have survived cancer, as well as think about our own health.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the United States (after lung cancer) and the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer among US women.

Many women age 40 or older have never had a mammogram, and many more do not follow the American Cancer Society recommendation of having a mammogram every year. These women need encouragement and support to get screened. There is nothing to be afraid of, or embarrassed about. This is a life-saving, early detection necessity for breast cancer screening.

Getting these cancer screenings will save your life.

If you would like more information on the Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery County's screenings, please contact me, Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at 770-7516 or by email at hagadorns@smha.org.