

# TEXAS C-STEP Newsletter

Cancer Screening, Training, Education & Prevention

Texas A&M Health Science Center

12/1/2014

## Texas C-STEP Awarded 3-Year Extension and Expansion Grant to Continue Providing Colorectal Cancer Screenings

The Texas Cancer Screening, Training, Education and Prevention Program, or Texas C-STEP, is a colorectal, breast and cervical cancer prevention program conducted through the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Funded by grants from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas, or CPRIT, the program provides funds to increase access to colorectal, breast and cervical cancer screening for uninsured residents of the Brazos Valley region or those who cannot afford their co-pays or deductibles, while increasing the number of family medicine physicians trained to conduct these cancer screenings through the Texas A&M Family Medicine Residency.

This aspect of the program aims to provide multidisciplinary training in diagnostic procedures for nurses, residents and practicing physicians. One avenue through which this objective is accomplished is through a simulation lab, where nurses and residents are given hands-on training, observation and feedback.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Texas C-STEP was awarded a 3-year extension and expansion grant to continue to provide colorectal cancer screenings to not only the 7 current counties, but 10 additional counties as well!



*(left) Counties now covered under colorectal cancer grant expansion [continuing counties in black, expansion counties in red]*

*(right) Monitoring residents and nurses during grant-funded procedure training*

### Success in Numbers



In the first 3 years of Texas C-STEP's colonoscopy program:

- 1101 people were screened for colon cancer
- 822 people received free colon cancer screenings
- 274 people had pre-cancerous polyps
- 11 cancers were detected



## First Mobile Mammography Day A Success in Leon County



*From left: Ashlyn Henry, Lili Avila (The Rose); Donna Danford, Linda Amos (Leon Co. Health Resource Center); Shirley Baker, Elizabeth Wise (HealthPoint-Centerville); Brenda Hernandez, Rosa Hernandez (Texas C-STEP)*

Two of the greatest barriers to preventative screenings for the uninsured and underserved rural population are cost and difficult access to care. Texas C-STEP continues to develop partnerships to help eliminate many of these barriers. On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Texas C-STEP contracted with The Rose to bring mobile mammography to Centerville to provide free mammograms to women much closer to home. This helped eliminate the travel burden and associated costs for those who received screenings; community health workers were also on the ground to assist patients. **Twenty women received free mammograms; five had never before had a mammogram!**

Special thanks to First Baptist Church of Centerville for hosting the event, as well as Donna Danford and Linda Amos with the Health Resource Center and Elizabeth Wise and Shirley Baker with HealthPoint, who worked tirelessly to find and refer women in their community who needed these services. They did such a great job getting the word out, in fact, that **we will be bringing The Rose back to Leon County again on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>!** [Women must register by December 30<sup>th</sup>; please call Brenda at 979.436.0449 or Rosa at 979.436.0443 for details.]

### Spotlight on our Partners



**The Rose**, a nonprofit breast cancer organization that has been providing quality breast care to Southeast Texas residents for over 28 years, is one of C-STEP's partners in the fight against breast cancer in the Brazos Valley region. The Rose serves over 33,000 women each year. C-STEP contracts The Rose's Mobile Mammography unit in order to provide free mammography services to uninsured and underinsured women in rural areas within the Brazos Valley.

C-STEP would like to bring **The Rose** to each of our counties in the Brazos Valley. If you would like to partner with us or suggest collaborations that would make this possible, please contact Vanessa O'Neal at (979) 862-4993.

### Success in Numbers

In the first 9 months of Texas C-STEP's Women's Health Grant:

- 108 women received free breast cancer screenings
- 61 women received free cervical cancer screenings
- Pre-cancerous tissue was detected in 5 women
- 1 breast cancer was detected

## Texas C-STEP on the move...

The Texas C-STEP team has made its rounds over the last three months, in an attempt to reach every Brazos Valley resident with the good news of free and subsidized preventative screenings. Through the Madison, Leon and Burleson County Health Fairs, a Mexican Consulate event in Bryan, and speaking engagements at the Calvert Senior Center and Oakwood Community Helping Hands Club, **we were able to directly educate over 500 residents** on breast, cervical and colorectal cancer, the importance of preventative screenings in early detection, as well as the services available to them through Texas C-STEP.

If you would like C-STEP personnel to speak at your next club meeting, corporate seminar, church group, senior center, or other venue about colorectal, breast and cervical cancer prevention, please visit our website at [www.texascstep.org](http://www.texascstep.org) or call Vanessa O'Neal at 979.862.4993.



*(above) Vanessa O'Neal and Community Health Worker Mirna Dubon at the Madison County Health Fair in November.*

## Texas C-STEP Coming to a County Near You!

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© Leon County –  
December/January 2015

© Robertson County –  
February/March 2015

© Madison County –  
April/May 2015

For more details, please call  
Vanessa O'Neal @  
(979) 862-4993

## MEET OUR TEAM'S NEWEST ADDITION



**Vanessa O'Neal**, Community Outreach Coordinator, joined our team in mid-September. Ms. O'Neal previously worked as the Marketing Manager for a medical facility targeting the uninsured and underserved population. She has spent most of the last five years conducting outreach in several Spanish-speaking and third-world countries. She is excited to reach rural Brazos Valley residents in the hope of saving lives that otherwise wouldn't have access to preventative cancer screenings.

## Visit Our Website

<http://texascstep.org/>

## General Information

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## Referrals/Appointments

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[www.texasamphysicians.com](http://www.texasamphysicians.com)

### Services Available



- COLONOSCOPY
- CLINICAL BREAST EXAM
  - PAP TEST
- MAMMOGRAM
- COLPOSCOPY
- LOOP ELECTROSURGICAL EXCISION PROCEDURE (LEEP)
- ULTRASOUND GUIDED NEEDLE BIOPSY
- HPV VACCINATION FOR AGES 18-26
- ABDOMINAL/PELVIC CT SCAN

*"We have many patients within our community and surrounding areas that would not have been able to get the help they needed without Texas C-STEP. We have numerous patients that have gone through the colonoscopy screening and now we are able to refer for women's health! The Rose coming to Centerville was AWESOME!"*

*-Elizabeth Wise, C.N.A., Clinic Manager at HealthPoint-Centerville*



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