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Partnership Health Center Receives \$46,000 Grant from Avon Breast Health Outreach Program for Breast Cancer Awareness Program

Local Organization Recognized With Support From National Program

Missoula, MT/January 7, 2016 – The Avon Breast Health Outreach Program has awarded a \$46,000 one-year grant to Partnership Health Center to increase awareness of the life-saving benefits of early detection of breast cancer. It is the tenth year that the program has received funding from the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade to support its work on this important health issue, and in recognition of the program's excellence.

The breast health program, Breast Education to Abolish Disease Program, at Partnership Health Center will educate Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli County-area women and refer them to low-cost or free mammograms and clinical breast exams in their own communities. The vital program will also provide additional outreach and assistance to Native American, Medicare eligible and Homeless women in our community.

Since May 2006, the Breast Education to Abolish Disease Program at Partnership Health Center has reached more than 50,000 women with information about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and has referred almost 9,700 women for mammograms and clinical breast exams.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in the United States. According to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, 760 new cases of breast cancer will be detected in Montana this year and 130 lives will be lost. While advances have been made in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure, early detection still affords the best opportunity for successful treatment. Programs such as Breast Education to Abolish Disease help ensure that all women have access to early detection information and options, even poor and medically underserved women.

"We are proud that the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade shares our mission and has chosen to support our program. These funds allow us to continue helping rural Montanans by educating women and men on the importance of breast cancer screenings, helping provide access to care and creating awareness. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to serving our community", said Alyson Holweger, Avon Outreach Worker at Partnership Health Center.

Since 1993, the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade has awarded more than 1,800 grants to community-based breast health programs across the United States, including the Breast Education to Abolish Disease Program at Partnership Health Center. The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade awards funding to beneficiaries ranging from leading cancer centers to community-based grassroots breast health programs to support breast cancer research and access to care.

Many programs are dedicated to educating underserved women about breast cancer and linking them to early detection screening services. Visit avonbhop.org for more information.

The Avon Breast Health Outreach Program is administered by Cikatelli Associates Inc. to support community-based, non-profit breast health programs across the country. Partnership Health Center is one of 56 new grant recipients nationwide in the 2016 cycle of Avon Breast Health Outreach Program grants. These organizations were chosen based on their ability to effectively reach women, particularly minority, low-income, and older women, who are often medically underserved.

For more information on the Breast Education to Abolish Disease Program at Partnership Health Center, please call Alyson Holweger at 258-4168. To learn more about the Avon Breast Health Outreach Program, visit www.avonbhop.org