



Summer 2001

Dear Friend:

- **Did you know that breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer among women in the United States?**
- **Did you know that in 1999, an estimated 195 women in Alameda County died from breast cancer?**
- **Did you know that in 2001, an estimated 5,800 deaths from breast cancer are expected to occur among African American women? (American Cancer Society, Facts and Figures 2001)**

I am writing to make you aware of several Alameda County programs that could save the life of a wife, a mother, a sister, an aunt or a friend. These programs are offered through the **Alameda County Breast Cancer Early Detection and Prevention Program at Alameda County Medical Center**. Some of the services are offered at low or no cost.

- **Breast Cancer Early Detection Program (BCEDP)** – Provides clinical breast exams and mammograms to women age 40 and over. Women who are diagnosed with breast cancer are also provided with free treatment services of chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. Women with family incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive these services free of charge. A family of one can have an income of \$1392.00 for additional members add \$483.00 per member. For more information call (510) 437-8447.

The BCEDP also provides community presentations to community groups, churches, senior centers, health fair, community colleges or on individual requests.

- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP)** – Women may be eligible for free mammograms and pap smears with the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. If you do not have Medi-Cal, Medicare, or other insurance, you may qualify for free services depending on your age and income level. Women ages 25 and older are eligible for free Pap smears. Women age 40 and over are eligible for clinical breast exams, and mammograms. The Clinic is also open on Saturdays to accommodate women who are unable to schedule appointments Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment call (510) 437-4920.

- **Cancer Support Groups** – The Alameda County Medical Center offers free support groups for women with breast cancer and for women who are newly diagnosed with any type of cancer. These groups are ongoing and new members are welcome. To join a group or obtain additional information call (510) 437-4064.
- **Look Good, Feel Good Program** – Provides make-up, wigs and accessories for women who have had chemotherapy. Women enrolled in this program will learn how to maintain a positive appearance and outlook during cancer treatments. For more information please call (510) 437-4064.

Please share this information with every woman you know. **Tell them to contact the Alameda County Breast Cancer Early Detection Program for general information at (510) 437-8447.** Early detection is the best protection. Remember that this can be accomplished through self-breast examination, mammography, and clinical breast examination. These methods can greatly improve the likelihood of surviving this deadly disease.

Thanks for helping me increase awareness about Breast Cancer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Carson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Keith Carson, Supervisor
5th District