



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
PH: 406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584
Fax: 406.457.8990

IR Health & Science Section
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CONTACT: Melissa J. Baker, Breast and Cervical Health Program Coordinator,
457-8923, mbaker@co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Free Mammogram Screenings at Women’s Health Day Event - July 10, 2008

HELENA - The Helena Indian Alliance, in collaboration with the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department Breast and Cervical Health Program (MBCH), is planning a Pink Shawl Society’s Women’s Health Day on Thursday, July 10, 2008, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Women of all ages are invited to the Big Sky Room of the Helena Indian Alliance on 436 North Jackson to learn about various health topics, including cancer prevention, nutrition, and tobacco use. Free mammograms are available for women aged 40 – 64 who qualify and enroll in the MBCH program prior to the event. Women who enroll before the event will be scheduled to receive their free mammograms on July 10th at St. Peter’s Hospital.

“This event is a great opportunity for women to not only obtain their mammograms, but also to learn more about health topics of interest to them and to engage in some fun social activities,” said Melissa Baker, Breast and Cervical Health Program Coordinator at the health department. In addition to the health information that will be available, women will also have the opportunity to decorate their own coffee mugs, listen to music, and win door prizes. Snacks are available for all women attending the event. Childcare and transportation to and from Helena Indian Alliance and St Peter’s Hospital will be provided for women while they go to have their mammograms.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure recommends that women have annual mammograms and clinical breast exams starting at age 40. According to the National Cancer Institute, nationwide only 37% of American Indian women over age 40 obtain regular mammograms. While American Indian women are slightly less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than are Caucasian women, they are more likely to die from breast cancer than any other racial group. According to statistics on *www.Montana.edu*, the five-year survival rate for American Indian women is approximately 46%, compared to 85% for non-native women.

For more information contact **Melissa Baker** at **457-8923**.

The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents. The Breast and Cervical Health Program works to provide breast and cervical health education and to assist qualified women to receive preventive cancer screenings.

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