



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Avon Foundation awards grant for breast cancer prevention to Tammy Walker Cancer Center

(February 16, 2010) – The Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund has awarded a \$41,200 grant to the Tammy Walker Cancer Center at Salina Regional Health Center to increase awareness of the lifesaving benefits of annual screening and early detection for breast cancer. The cancer center is one of only 125 programs in the United States to receive the grant this year. This marks the ninth year in a row that the health center has received funding.

The grant supports the Avon Breast Health Program at the cancer center and county health nurses in the 14-county Sunflower Health Network. The program provides education, referrals for low-cost or free mammograms to women with inadequate health insurance and clinical training for nurses who perform breast health exams. In 2009 area professionals provided educational programs to more than 6,300 people and worked with nurses in 12 clinics in surrounding communities, that performed 1,197 breast exams and referred more than 951 women for free or low-cost mammograms.

These efforts are aimed at curbing a national trend of breast cancer as the most common form of cancer in women in the U.S., and the leading single cause of death overall in women

between the ages of 40 and 55. According to the American Cancer Society, nationwide, there is a new diagnosis every three minutes and a death from breast cancer every fourteen minutes. While advances have been made in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure, early detection still affords the best opportunity for successful treatment. Programs such as Tammy Walker Cancer Center Cancer Outreach help ensure that all women have access to early detection information and options, even poor and medically underserved women.

“Many women don’t have health insurance or need information on access to screenings and care needed to detect breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stages,” says Linda Hinnenkamp, Outreach Coordinator of the Avon Breast Health Program at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. “There is a tremendous need to educate all women about the importance of taking care of themselves and to provide underinsured women with the resources to maintain good breast health. We are glad that the Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund shares this mission and has chosen to support our program again this year.”

Since 1993 the Avon Foundation for Women has funded more than 1,300 community-based breast health programs across the United States. These programs are dedicated to educating underserved women about breast cancer and linking them to early detection screening services. The Avon Foundation, an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and their families. Since 1992 the *Avon Breast Cancer Crusade* has raised and awarded more than \$640 million worldwide for medical research, access to care, support services, screening and diagnostics and education and awareness. The largest fundraising program in the U.S. is the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer series.

To learn more about the Avon Foundation, call 1-866-505-AVON or visit www.avonfoundation.org, where you can also access the free printable *Breast Health Resource Guide* in English and Spanish. For information or to register or support the *Avon Walk for Breast Cancer* events, visit www.avonwalk.org or call 1-888-540-WALK.

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