



CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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“Going to the Chatham County Public Health Department clinic may have saved my life”. Chatham County resident Vieda Mazure, said those words about her experience at the health department’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). She agreed to share her story in the hopes of helping other women.

BCCCP is a federally and state funded program. Eligible women can receive free or low cost mammograms, pap smears, pelvic exams, and clinical breast exams. The purpose of the program is to detect breast cancer and cervical cancer early. Women between the ages of 18 and 64 can be seen for cervical screening services. Women between 40 and 75 can receive breast screening services. All patients must be low income, have no health insurance, or be underinsured. Please call 742-5641 and ask for Reta White or Jo Deaton to see if you qualify.

Ms. Mazure joined BCCCP in June of this year after she and a health department nurse, Jo Deaton discussed her health problem. When Mazure came in for her appointment, nurse Jo Deaton recommended the program. It was in fact, “The only way I could get treated. I work part time and have no health insurance.”

Mazure says she had a positive experience. She said, “The doctors at the health department are very professional. Everything is kept in strict confidence.” Mazure sang the praises of Family Nurse Practitioner, Cathy Wright, FNP and Jo Deaton, RN calling them very caring.

As a result of enrolling in the program, it was discovered that Mazure was in the early stages of cervical cancer. When her symptoms weren’t resolved after treatment at the health department, they referred her to UNC Hospital. After many tests, Mazure had the diagnosis a week later. She went on to say, “They literally saved my life. If I hadn’t been referred by the health department to UNC for a blood transfusion, I wouldn’t have existed in three days.”

Mazure is still receiving her primary care at the health department. She gets blood work done every Wednesday. Her words of advice are to, “Use the resources available at the health department whether you have health insurance or not. The health department is there to help you.”

Mazure also wants to make sure that women get regular check ups. She had no symptoms of cervical cancer other than blood loss for two weekends. Luckily her cancer was caught early.

For more information on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program or resources on breast or cervical cancer, please contact Jo Deaton, RN or Reta White at 742-5641.

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