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**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
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**Health Department's Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program
receives grant from Charlevoix County Community Foundation**

CHARLEVOIX – The Charlevoix County Community Foundation recently awarded the Health Department of Northwest Michigan a \$1,900 grant, based on a recommendation from the Charlevoix Women's Circle. The grant is supported through the foundation's Charlevoix Area Memorial Cancer Fund, and will finance outreach efforts for the Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP).

“The Health Department is honored to receive this grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation,” said Joy Klooster, BCCCP coordinator at the Health Department. “We are so pleased that the foundation recognizes the great services provided by BCCCP, especially since they're so important for a healthy community. With this funding, we can really get the word out about this program.”

BCCCP provides breast and cervical screenings at no cost to uninsured and under-insured women ages 40-64 who fall within certain annual income guidelines. Clients younger than 40 years old may also benefit from the program if they have abnormal screening results. The program offers clinical breast exams, Pap smears, pelvic exams, and mammograms, as well as referrals to area healthcare providers for follow-up of abnormalities. If additional treatment is necessary, women may be eligible for Medicaid coverage through the Medicaid Treatment Act.

It's imperative that every woman get screened for these cancers every year, said Klooster, in order to catch them as soon as possible. Through regular annual screenings, women who have breast or cervical cancer will be identified at earlier stages of these diseases, when treatment is less expensive and the success rates are more favorable.

Appointments for breast and cervical screenings are available at the Charlevoix site of the Health Department, located at 220 W. Garfield. To make an appointment or learn more about BCCCP, call **(800) 432-4121** or visit www.nwhealth.org. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.