

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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Avon Breast Health Outreach Program awards grant for breast cancer awareness program to Russian Oregon Social Services Local organization recognized with support from national program

The Avon Breast Health Outreach Program has awarded a \$30,000 one-year grant to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) to increase awareness of the life-saving benefits of early detection of breast cancer for the Russian-speaking community. It is the second year that the program has received funding from the Avon Foundation for Women to support its work on this important health issue, and in recognition of the program's excellence.

The Breast Health Education and Support Project at ROSS will educate Portland/Vancouver area women and refer them to low-cost or free mammograms and clinical breast exams in their own communities. Since April 2001, the project has reached more than 30,000 women with information about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and has referred almost 1,500 women for mammograms and clinical breast exams.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in the United States, and the leading single cause of death overall in women between the ages of 40 and 55. According to the American Cancer Society, 2,756 new cases of breast cancer will be detected in Oregon this year, and 520 lives will be lost; 4,472 new cases of breast cancer will be detected in Washington this year, and 780 lives will be lost. Nationwide, there is a new diagnosis every three minutes and a death from breast cancer every 14 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 the Breast Health Education and Support Project help ensure that all women have access to early detection information and options, even poor and medically underserved women.

"We are very thankful for the continuing support and encouragement we've received from the Avon Foundation for Women Breast Health Outreach Program," commented Yelena Hansen, ROSS program manager. "This funding will allow us to continue to provide essential education about breast cancer as a life-threatening disease to Russian-speaking women in Oregon and southwest Washington."

Since 1993, the Avon Foundation has awarded more than 1,550 grants to community-based breast health programs across the United States, including the Breast Health Education and Support Project at

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African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

ROSS. These programs are dedicated to educating underserved women about breast cancer and linking them to early detection screening services.

The Avon Foundation for Women and Breast Cancer Crusade

The Avon Foundation for Women, an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and today is the world's largest corporate-affiliated philanthropy focused on issues that matter most to women. The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade, which observes its 20th anniversary in 2012, has placed Avon at the forefront of the fight against breast cancer; today, Avon is the leading corporate supporter of the cause globally. In the 20 years since the Crusade's launch, Avon breast cancer programs in 58 countries have donated more than \$740 million for research and advancing access to care, regardless of a person's ability to pay. Avon raises funds for the Crusade through the sale of Avon "Pink Ribbon" products, and through events and walks, such as the U.S. Avon Walk for Breast Cancer series, which is the Foundation's largest fund-raising source.

The Avon Breast Health Outreach Program

The Avon Breast Health Outreach Program is administered by Cicatelli Associates Inc. to support community-based, non-profit breast health programs across the country. The Fund's National Advisory Board selected Breast Health Education and Support Project at ROSS as one of 120 new grant recipients nationwide in the 2012 cycle of Avon Breast Health Outreach Program grants. These organizations were chosen based on their ability to effectively reach women, particularly minority, low-income and older women, who are often medically underserved.

For more Information

For more information on Breast Health Education and Support Project at EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services, please call Yelena Hansen at (503) 777 3437. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org, or the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov.

To learn more about the Avon Foundation for Women, call 1-866-505-AVON or visit www.avonfoundation.org, where you can access free printable Breast Health Resource Guides 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.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.