

Driven to Make a Difference

Awareness ~ Detection ~ Survival



Women all across eastern and south-central Montana as well as northern Wyoming have improved access to breast cancer screenings, thanks to St. Vincent Healthcare and its commitment to serve the communities throughout the region. St. Vincent recently unveiled its new 40 foot Mobile Mammography Coach. The coach will travel the region to bring digital mammography access and convenience to women in rural Montana and Wyoming as well as improved convenience in and around the Billings community on-site at St. Vincent Healthcare clinics.

St. Vincent Healthcare's Yellowstone Breast Center, recognized as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, was the first hospital to offer digital mammography in the region. Accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR), The St. Vincent Healthcare Mobile Mammography coach is equipped with high quality—high tech Hologic digital mammography imaging equipment. The images are read by the board certified radiologists. The coach is also equipped with two private dressing rooms and an expanded waiting room for patient convenience and confidentiality.

Statistics show rural women are 20 percent less likely to get their annual mammogram than women in urban areas. As a result, women forego life-saving preventative care due to access issues. Studies indicate that rural, older and lower-income women are less likely to get a mammogram, and those who go without mammograms are more likely not to be diagnosed with breast cancer until the disease has advanced. The mobile coach will be especially prominent, visiting rural locations including, at the outset, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne medical clinics and migrant worker clinics.

The St. Vincent Healthcare Mobile Mammography coach is a philanthropic mission of the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation. "By taking the care to women in areas where such expensive equipment cannot be accessed routinely, our donors are committed to making a difference in the lives of the women and families in our rural state," said David Irion, President and CEO of the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation. "This sort of innovation in healthcare services is what we aspire to do at St. Vincent. Congressman Denny Rehberg has been instrumental in this funding along with the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation Eva Project, the Sample Foundation and funds raised through the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation Marynell Heringer Women's Golf Tournament." St. Vincent Healthcare is working closely with Indian Health Services and the Migrant Council. The Mobile Mammography coach is already scheduled to begin monthly travel to the Lame Deer and Crow Agency Reservations.

1 in 8 women will learn she has breast cancer!!

An average of 800 Montana women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year!!