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## Health Department receives Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Foundation grant

The Florida Suncoast Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Foundation has awarded the Sarasota County Health Department a \$25,000 grant to support the continuation of the Be Smart mammogram program.

The Be Smart program allows eligible women who use the Sarasota County Health Department's North Port Health Center to receive a free annual screening mammogram, breast health education and follow-up care, if needed.

Women who meet the requirements listed below are eligible for program participation:

- 40 to 49 years of age and reside in southern Sarasota County (Osprey and areas south to North Port).
- Do not have current symptoms of a breast problem.
- Have no source of health insurance or means to pay for a screening mammogram.

Mammograms help to detect breast cancer and can save lives. The American Cancer Society and National Institutes for Health recommend that women, age 40 and older, have a regularly scheduled mammogram. Women are advised to talk with their health care provider about how often they should receive a mammogram.

"The women served through the "Be Smart" program have appreciated the caring and supportive staff, and have peace of mind in being able to access mammogram screening and follow-up medical treatment, when necessary," said the program's manager Theresa Merrill, RN.

For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the Be Smart program, call the North Port Health Center at 941-861-3776. For information on breast cancer, visit the National Cancer Institute at <http://www.cancer.gov/>, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) site at <http://www.cdc.gov/>, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Foundation at <http://www.komen.org>, and the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org>.

