



# Providing health care services to uninsured women

Ruth H., a 48-year-old divorced mother, couldn't recall the last time she'd had any kind of gynecological exam much less a Pap smear that checks for cell abnormalities and cervical cancer. She felt fortunate to be one of nearly 50 women to participate in the first Super Saturdays for Women. "This is a great service they're offering today," Ruth said. "I really appreciate it so much."

Super Saturdays for Women is a project of the Health Alliance for the Uninsured (HAU), a nonprofit organization that works with community partners such as free clinics to provide health care services for those unable to obtain them. The organization, initiated by the Oklahoma County Medical Society in 2007, received an Access to Health Care iFund grant for the Super Saturdays for Women program that targets low-income and uninsured women in the metro area who receive basic health care at partner clinics but don't have access to gynecological services.

Participants received a pelvic exam, a Pap smear and were taught how to conduct breast self exams at the first Super Saturdays held at Good Shepherd Ministries in downtown Oklahoma City and Crossings Clinic in the northwest metro area. The women will receive lab results via the mail and a case manager will follow up especially if there is a need for further testing or procedures. Each woman was also provided a card to schedule a free mammogram.

Pam Cross, HAU executive director, said the project will occur quarterly and hopefully expand to include more clinics with the goal of serving up to 500 women over four quarters.

"The Access to Health Care iFund grant provided vital support needed to



*Sherry Landreth, RN at Mercy Health Center, conducts an exit interview with a Super Saturdays for Women client at Good Shepherd Ministries clinic.*

try a new approach for reaching women needing services," Cross said. "Our Super Saturdays team worked very well together."

The first Super Saturday utilized the volunteer services of six physicians, one physician assistant, two nurse practitioners, 12 nurses and 14 medical students. In addition, a HIV test counselor and a SoonerCare enrollment counselor was available at each clinic.

Dr. Andrea Doeden, an OB/GYN with Lakeside Women's Hospital who volunteered her services, says Super Saturdays for Women is providing a "critical service that these women must have" because Oklahoma has one of the nation's highest rates of cervical cancer. "This is the working poor we're seeing here today; these are people who have fallen through the cracks."

Oklahoma has one of the nation's highest rates of cervical cancer. Thanks to an Access to Health Care iFund grant, up to 500 uninsured women in Oklahoma County will receive critical gynecological exams including tests for cervical cancer. The Health Alliance for the Uninsured's Super Saturdays for Women is a partnership among free clinics and medical professionals to provide exams and tests requiring lab work; services the women cannot afford.

The Access to Health Care iFund program stepped in and provided a \$30,000 grant that is making a tangible and immediate difference in our community. The iFund provides one-time grants to nonprofits providing primary, diagnostic and preventive services for individuals without access to health or mental health services.

You can play a part in helping the iFunds continue to help others by making a minimum gift of \$25. We'll combine your gift with those from other donors and award grants to fund worthy projects like Super Saturdays for Women. To find out more about the program including the Opportunities for Children iFund and the Services for Elderly iFund, visit [www.ifundokc.org](http://www.ifundokc.org) or contact us at 405/235-5603.



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