

## Volunteers in Medicine gets funds for mammograms

Eligible low-income patients can apply now at clinic

By Dann Denny  
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Volunteers in Medicine has received \$9,800 from the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust to provide eligible patients with free digital mammogram testing at the Southern Indiana Radiological Associates.

"It's very important to our mission to provide preventative care, and since the mammogram is such an expensive test, many women who come to us as new patients have never had one, or have not had one for years," said Elizabeth Sturgeon, VIM's executive director.

To be eligible for the free mammogram program, patients must be residents of Monroe or Owen counties and have a household income at 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level.

"People can apply right now by coming to the VIM clinic," said Sturgeon.

"If they qualify to become a patient here, they will automatically qualify for the free mammograms."

Sturgeon said the grant will be used to pay SIRA for providing the mammograms.

She added that SIRA routinely reads the radiology screenings of VIM patients at no charge.

She said the \$9,800 grant supplements funding being received from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, as well as local funds raised by the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.

VIM also participates in the State of Indiana's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, which provides funding for mammograms for women over 40 who are under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

"With all of these programs combined, VIM will provide breast cancer screening for over 400 individual women in 2010 that otherwise would most likely go without the testing," Sturgeon said.



Elizabeth Sturgeon, VIM's executive director

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