

Cancer

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received in April, was intended to address the disparity, by providing free screening mammograms for up to 40 women who meet the program's criterion of being uninsured; over 40 years of age; not pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breast feeding; and having no history of breast cancer; no lumps or other problems with breasts; or implants. Also the woman must have never had a mammogram screening.

Flowers and Lewis say they are happy to help all women find the treatment and financial assistance, even if they don't qualify for the free screening.

To spread the word about the free mammograms, Flowers and Lewis say they have distributed fliers to free clinics and other organizations that serve their target audience. They regularly attend health fairs as well, in hopes of recruiting women who need the service. But the community's response to their efforts is far less than they had expected. To date, only four women have signed up to receive the service.

"We were anticipating having to put in a lot of leg-work in getting the word out there, but once it was out there, we were expecting to get calls, calls and more calls," Lewis remarked. "I know there are many women out there who can benefit from this."

The lack of interest has Flowers and Lewis scratching their heads.

"I'm concerned more than I am frustrated," Flowers said.



The YWCA's Betty Meadows.

of the lack of participation. "Somehow, it's not enough. We're missing something, and we have been brainstorming about what that could be."

Sister, Speak! Coordinator Betty Meadows believes she knows what's keeping the women away. Meadows, who has led the YWCA's breast cancer education and outreach program since its inception, has had similar grants from the Komen Foundation in the past, and says she's never had a problem filling the slots.

"I always had a long list (of women signed up for the mammograms)," Meadows reported. Having a mobile unit where mammograms could be done on-site at health fairs and the like made the difference for her, Meadows said.

"They have to be willing to take it to the people," she commented. "If you don't take it to the people, they're not going to come to you."

Meadows' most recent free mammograms grant expired in 2007, and she says she has been referring those in need of the service to Flowers and Lewis, but many have failed to follow up with the patient navigators.

Despite the difficulties they have faced in reaching out to women in need, Flowers and Lewis say they are determined to keep trying.

"We want women to benefit from this and be on their way to being cured and being whole," said Flowers, a five-year breast cancer survivor.

"Breast cancer is no longer a death sentence," her colleague added. "Untreated, or advanced, that's where the problem comes in. The whole goal is for the person to be diagnosed early ... and be able to live a long, healthy life."

For more information about the free mammograms program, or to schedule a screening, contact Flowers at (336) 713-6849; or Lewis at (336) 713-2688.



Stimulus money to improve Winston-Salem section of I-40

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Money from the federal economic recovery act is now being used to rehab a stretch of I-40 in Winston-Salem.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is expected to begin work on the section - which runs from mile marker 194 to mile marker 196 - this week, although a stormy forecast may delay work. The project should be completed by September. Greensboro-based APAC-Atlantic Inc., Thompson-Arthur Division, has been awarded the \$1.2 million contract for the work.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, every \$1 million spent on transportation creates 30 jobs, and according to the

construction industry, every dollar invested in transportation trickles down into the economy six times.

Most of the rehab work will be done in the evening, after rush hour. There will be lane closures in the section of I-40 each night from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. Crews will rehab pavement and widen a shoulder and a curve, replace guardrails and repave the exit ramps onto N.C. 109.

And as part of the overall maintenance of I-40 through this area, the department is also using maintenance funds to raise the approach slabs and repair existing ground settlement issues at the two bridges along this section of highway.

Microsoft

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promoting minorities.

Past honorees include Earl Graves Sr., founder and publisher of Black Enterprise magazine; The New York Times Company and its CEO Arthur Aulzberger, Jr.; and Ronald A. Williams, chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc.

According to Arnwine, Microsoft is distinguished from past honorees because of their internationally renowned corporate diversity mission and for inspiring law firms to demonstrate the same commitment. They were also the first and largest technology company honored.

"This award is particularly important as Microsoft strives to be the global leader in attracting diverse talent to careers in technology," said Gwen Houston, director of global diversity and inclusion for Microsoft. "We hope to provide an inclusive work environment where they can succeed."



Higginbotham

Microsoft's aspiration to attract a diverse and talented company network among under-represented groups, youth and women involves partnering with several organizations, including the National Urban League, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the Minority Business Development Agency, the National Society of Black Engineers and the National Black MBA Association.

"We invest hundreds of millions of dollars in dedicated outreach to attract minorities and women to high-tech careers," said Houston.

She explained that this includes grants, scholarships, event sponsorships and partnerships with universities, such as Howard and Xavier Universities, and organizations that serve minorities and women, such as the United Negro College Fund.

Besides attracting diverse talent to careers in technology, Microsoft focuses on distributing investments into under-served communities through the minority investment program, which was launched in 2000.

The company conducted research with the Urban League that revealed minority-owned businesses have a lack of resources to adopt and implement information technologies for business functions. Therefore, the diversity investment program focuses on increasing funding options

for businesses historically limited by lack of capital.

According to Microsoft's Web site, the corporation has \$50 million of unsecured deposits in minority-owned banks and directs more than \$1 billion of investment business volume to minority-owned brokers and asset managers.

"This award just confirms that [anyone] can benefit from Judge Higginbotham's vision of a more fair and just legal system," said Professor Charles J. Ogletree Jr., of Harvard Law School. "I think he would be smiling down with great joy to see that a corporate giant is seeing the importance of delivering racial equality."

Higginbotham dedicated his life's work to racial and social justice, all while breaking racial barriers on a national and international scale. His work in the legal profession centered on voting rights, civil rights and employee discrimination.

He was the first African-American appointed in 1962 to serve on the Federal Trade Commission. In 1964 at the age of 36, Higginbotham was appointed to the United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, making him the youngest person ever appointed to the federal bench. He was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1979, where he remained until his retirement in 1993.

His commitment to equal opportunity led him to advocate for democratic elections in South Africa post-apartheid.

Higginbotham was awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 by former President Clinton, and had received more than sixty honorary degrees by the time of his death at the age of 70 in December 1998. Higginbotham was renowned for his 1991 "Open Letter to Clarence Thomas," in which he criticized Thomas and his role in reversing "racial progress..."

Higginbotham was known as a mentor for many up-and-coming lawyers, including Ogletree, who has worked with Higginbotham's wife to continue his legacy.

Ogletree says, "The fact that a major corporate entity has time to pause and recognize Judge Higginbotham is not only a tribute to him but more so a tribute to the lasting impact of his legacy more than a decade after his death."

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