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**THE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER INITIATIVE
AT BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED \$90,000 GRANT**
-- Funds will provide for continued support of medically underserved women--

(BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA) – The Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative (BCCI) at the Broward County Health Department was recently awarded a \$90,000 grant from Health Foundation of South Florida. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative serves medically underserved women ages 50 to 64 residing in Broward, Palm Beach and Martin Counties with breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services. Enrollment in BCCI includes a clinical breast examination, mammogram, Pap test and any needed breast or cervical diagnostic procedures at no cost. The grant will provide additional funding towards mammographic screening and diagnostic costs for women who reside in Broward County.

“The grant award from the Health Foundation of South Florida comes at a critical time for the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (FBCCEDP) and the Broward County Health Department Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative,” said Trivel Cooper McKire, Program Manager. “Technological advances have led to an increase in the cost of mammography. This increase would have been passed on to some of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative clients, but, with the grant, exercising this option will not be necessary. The grant will assist in allowing 945 women who qualify for BCCI services in 2010 to have a free screening or diagnostic mammogram.”

“We welcome and applaud the support,” said Paula Thaqi, M.D., MPH, Director at the Broward County Health Department. “Grant funding and community partnerships such as this bring us closer to our goal of increasing the early detection of breast and cervical cancer and eliminating barriers for women to needed health care,” she said. The BCCI primary funding source is the State of Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

The Health Foundation of South Florida, a nonprofit grant making organization, is dedicated to improving health in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. By funding providers and supporting programs to promote health and prevent disease, the Foundation makes a measurable and sustainable impact in the health of individuals and families. Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$84 million in grants and program support. For more information, please call (305) 374-7200 or visit the Web site, www.hfsf.org

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The Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative served over 1100 women in 2009. Additionally, through the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Act, BCCI provided Medicaid-related assistance to nineteen women who were diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. These women will receive cancer treatment and follow-up care.

Women ages 50 to 64 who are unable to pay for annual clinical breast examinations, mammograms, Pap tests or pelvic examinations, and physicians who wish to participate as referring physicians should contact the Broward County Health Department – Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative at (954) 762-3649.

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