

MUSC, Siemens offer free mobile mammograms**Subheadline:** Screenings free for uninsured or underinsured**Slug:** LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS**Print depth:** 28.91 (4308 characters)**Start date/time:** Oct 3, 2023 04:26 PM**Section tags:** nc-lan
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Local people who cannot afford a mammogram are in luck as MUSC Health — Lancaster is offering free 3D mammograms for two weeks at a mobile screening unit.

The free breast screenings are open to people age 40 and older who are uninsured or underinsured through Oct. 13, in a mobile medical unit in the Belk department store parking lot, 969 N. Main St., Lancaster.

Members of MUSC Health, Siemens Healthineers and the city of Lancaster gathered Oct. 3 to celebrate the mobile mammogram screening unit's opening, as well as discuss the importance of screening, preventative care and early detection during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Students from the Lancaster County Career Center were also able to meet health-care providers, hear about radiology-specific clinical rotations and tour the unit.

Dr. Xaviera Carter, MUSC OBGYN physician, said that breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

“Early detection during mammograms can significantly increase the chances of successful treatment and survival,” Carter said. “Health care disparities, particularly among women of color and the uninsured, are a significant concern.”

Carter also said women of color are often diagnosed at a later stage, and have a higher mortality rate for breast cancer, due to the lack of access to early detection and treatment.

MUSC Chief Executive Officer Scott Broome said that breast cancer does not discriminate on the basis of socioeconomic status, and neither should access to care.

Abby Weldon, senior director for women's health at Siemens Healthineers, said the Lancaster mobile mammogram unit is the fifth of its kind, but its first partnership with MUSC Health.

"We look for partners that align with our vision of providing more women access to care, and so as we have a long standing relationship with MUSC, it was a natural choice," Weldon said.

"It's an honor to be part of an organization that prioritizes access to care and women's health, but it's (even more of) an honor to work for an organization that has partners that do the same," she said.

Weldon also said when an eligible person comes to the unit, there is no cost to them. Instead, the cost goes through the MUSC network. The technologist doing the screening will provide the patient with more information about what they are looking for, what to expect and how it will feel.

Arras Foundation President and CEO Susan DeVenny also addressed the crowd to share her personal experience with breast cancer, and how important it is to be proactive about screenings.

"I stand before you a proud supporter and partner of this amazing event for the women of our region, in our community," DeVenny said. "It was five years ago that I didn't know to be looking for breast cancer."

Her husband, Lancaster Mayor Alston DeVenny, said resources like the mobile mammogram unit are incredibly helpful for husbands and family members supporting loved ones in their breast cancer battles, as well as informing men about their risks for breast cancer.

Students from the Lancaster Career Center's Health Sciences 1 and 2 class, as well as its medical terminology class, got a private tour.

Lancaster High School sophomore Tori Robinson was one of many students present to tour the facility and hear about radiology and technician careers through MUSC. Like many others, the day held personal significance for her, too.

"Cancer runs on my mom's side of the family and my mom has done plenty of mammograms before, and people like my grandma (as well)," Robinson said. "It teaches me about my heritage and what the possible later outcome (could be) as well as going into the health-care field."

"I feel like it is going to help the community a lot and try and help people who need (to be screened)," she said.

The mobile mammography unit has two private dressing rooms, multiple technology stations for processing scans and a large in-unit mammogram machine. The unit is also air-conditioned, plays music and has dimmed lighting, which many event attendees described as a "spa-like" experience.

Remaining screening hours are Oct. 7: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Oct. 9-12: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Oct. 13: 8 a.m.-noon. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Call 803-286-1284 to register.

Child images

LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 1





LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 2





LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 3



LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 4





LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 5



LANNWS-10-07-23 MUSC MAMMOGRAMS 6

