

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DOMINICA CANCER SOCIETY 13th December 2013

The Dominica Cancer Society is pleased to be one of the agencies to be selected to partner with the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) in the campaign to prevent deaths from Cervical Cancer.

Funded by the Australian High Commission Direct Aid Program, the Cancer Society will train volunteers across the island that will be equipped to educate women about the need for cervical cancer PAP Smear Screening. We hope the Health Centres will be inundated with women who realize they should have this free check up.

For those women whose screening indicates the need for treatment there will be a scheme to assist those who are not insured to access free treatment at the hospital through a voucher system.

Nearly 20 women died of cervical cancer in Dominica between 2007 and 2011....unnecessarily. Maybe they did not go for the screening, or did not have the EC\$275 it costs at Princess Margaret Hospital for the treatment, or could not face the chemotherapy or radiation financially or emotionally.....

Early intervention saves lives. Last year over 3000 women had PAP smears and over 100 were found to need intervention. This year we hope that many more women will take advantage of the free screening at their Health Centre so that those who need help will get it.

We are very grateful both the Health Caribbean Coalition for their energetic advocacy and to the Australian Government for their funding. We are proud to be beneficiaries once again of the Australian Direct AID Program, in 2011 we received a grant to equip the Wellness Centre at 9 Francis Lane, Goodwill which continues to be well used by both the Dominica Cancer Society and a Dominica Diabetes Association. We were pleased to welcome Gwendolene Roberts the Projects Officer from the Australian High Commission on her recent visit to encourage Community groups to apply for grants in the areas of agriculture, health and economic development. We will do all we can to fight cancer on all fronts.



Claudia Emmanuel (Support Group Leader)
Gwendolene Roberts (Projects Officer Australian High Commission sporting the DCS T Shirt)
Kathleen Cornelius (President of Dominica Cancer Society)

Outside the Wellness Centre 9 Francis Lane, Goodwill equipped by the Australian High Commission.