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11th Annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer New York Raises \$6.7 Million

**Metropolitan Hospital Center Receives One of 10 Grants Awarded at Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
Nearly 3,000 Women and Men Participate in the 39.3-Mile Walk;
Grants Awarded to 10 Breast Cancer Organizations**

New York, NY, October 20, 2013 – The 11th annual [Avon Walk for Breast Cancer](#) season continued with the [Avon Walk for Breast Cancer New York](#) this weekend, which raised \$6.7 million to advance access to care and finding a cure for breast cancer. The Avon Walk New York attracted nearly 3,000 participants from 45 states (and Washington DC), in addition to six countries. Additionally, 406 breast cancer survivors and 420 men joined together to raise life-saving funds and awareness for breast cancer.

During the Closing Ceremony at Hudson River Park’s Pier 84, Wendy Flammia, a one-year breast cancer survivor and mother of three from Miller Place, N.Y., described her battle with breast cancer and her motivation to walk: “When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I went from being my family’s caregiver to entering a strange world of putting myself first so I could get better. I was planning to participate in the Avon Walk by myself until I found and joined a team, the Wellness Warriors, who welcomed me into their group. When we crossed that finish line today after walking 39.3 miles through the city, and celebrating our survivorship together, it was one of the most important moments of my life.”

Avon Foundation for Women President Carol Kurzig announced during the Closing Ceremony a total of more than \$5.52 million in grants to 10 breast cancer organizations. “Avon Walk beneficiaries like these dedicated scientists and clinicians are changing the course of breast cancer here in New York, across the country and around the world,” said Kurzig. “Since 1999, the Avon Foundation has donated more than \$200 million to breast cancer research. Our current research focuses on understanding what causes breast cancer and how to ultimately prevent it so that our sisters, daughters and granddaughters will not have to face this disease.”

“We are honored to be a recipient of a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women again this year,” said Elizabeth Guzman, Acting Executive Director of Metropolitan Hospital Center. “The grant provides critical funding for our Metropolitan + Avon + Supporting the Safety Net (MAS) Program, which works year-round to connect women at risk to diagnostic, treatment and support services. MAS provides breast cancer care to women right here in their own community, regardless of their ability to pay. Metropolitan’s patients and staff are grateful to the Avon Foundation for their generous support of our MAS program.”

Following are the grants the Avon Foundation for Women awarded at the Avon Walk New York Closing Ceremony:

- [The Avon Foundation Breast Health Outreach Program \(BHOP\)](#) received \$3 million to support more than 50 community-based groups across the country for programs that navigate more than 100,000 people into mammography screening and clinical breast exams annually and have reached a half million people with critical breast cancer education and information.

- **CancerCare** received \$850,000 to continue support for the AvonCares program, which provides direct financial assistance to more than 72,000 low-income breast cancer patients in 99% of all U.S. counties.
- **The Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Center at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center**, one of seven Avon Breast Centers across the country, received \$650,000 to continue funding care for thousands of underserved women in its state-of-the-art mammography center and to support breast cancer research, clinical trials and imaging fellowships. This new grant brings the total Avon Foundation support for the Columbia-Presbyterian Avon Breast Center to more than \$23.5 million over the last 13 years.
- **Mount Sinai School of Medicine** received two grants totaling \$295,000: one grant to determine if viruses play a role in the development of breast cancer and a second grant to develop a low-cost blood test to diagnose breast cancer at the earliest possible stage.
- **God's Love We Deliver** received \$150,000 to provide nutritious meals to breast cancer patients and their families.
- **Nanometics**, a first time beneficiary, received \$100,000 to support the development of a new treatment for triple negative breast cancer.

The following grants awarded are part of the [Avon Safety Net Hospital Program](#), which funds projects that help ensure access to quality breast cancer care, screening and treatment, regardless of a person's insurance status or ability to pay:

- **Metropolitan Hospital Center** received a \$125,000 grant
- **NYU Cancer Center and Bellevue Collaborative** received two grants totaling \$200,000
- **Newark Beth Israel Hospital** received a \$100,000 grant
- **You Can Thrive!** received a \$50,000 grant

These donations represent only a portion of the grants that will be made with funds raised by the Avon Walks this year. An additional \$680,000 in New York-area grants has already been presented to the Breast Treatment Task Force, Northern Westchester Hospital, St. John's Riverside Hospital and the Young Survival Coalition, as well as 10 more community-based outreach programs in the region.

About the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer New York

The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer New York, the seventh of eight 2013 Avon Walks, began on Saturday, October 19 with an inspirational opening ceremony at Hudson River Park's Pier 84. Walkers began their journey of up to 26.2 miles on Saturday through New York City, supported by an all-volunteer crew and cheered on by family, friends and supporters along the route. Participants spent the night at the Walk's "Wellness Village" at Randall's Island, featuring pink two-person tents, hot showers and meals, entertainment, volunteer medical services, as well as leisure activities such as yoga and a spa zone with mini back and foot massages. On Sunday, October 20, after completing the Avon Walk's final 13.1 miles – for a total of up to 39.3 miles over the course of weekend – participants joined family and friends to celebrate their achievement at a Closing Ceremony at Hudson River Park's Pier 84. At the Ceremony, the Avon Foundation awarded new grants to New York-area breast cancer organizations to ensure the funds raised immediately benefit the community. For more information on the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer or to donate, visit www.avonwalk.org or call 888-541-WALK. To learn more about the Avon Foundation for Women visit www.avonfoundation.org.

About Metropolitan Hospital Center

Metropolitan Hospital Center (MHC) is the community hospital of choice for residents of East Harlem, northern Manhattan and neighboring communities. MHC provides culturally-sensitive care in a welcoming and hospitable setting, emphasizing primary care medicine and utilizing the latest advances in medical science. Metropolitan is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal hospital and health care system in the country. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/mhc

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