

People and Events

Avon Foundation breast care fund awards grant for breast cancer awareness and screening program to St. Vincent Medical Center

LOS ANGELES – The Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund has awarded a \$ 45,000 one-year grant to Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center to increase awareness of the life-saving benefits of early detection of breast cancer. It is the third year that the program has received Avon Foundation funding to support its work on this important health issue, and in recognition of the excellence of the program.

The Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center will educate Central Los Angeles area women and refer them to low-cost or free mammograms and clinical breast exams in their own communities. The vital program will also strengthen and expand partnership formed with community stakeholders for breast cancer outreach and education. Linkages to community-based healthcare services will be established to facilitate services to Filipino, Korean, Hispanic and other minority populations.

In 2008, Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center has reached more than 50,000 women with information about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and has referred more than 1,000 women for mammograms and clinical breast exams.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in the U.S., and the leading single cause of death overall in women between the ages of 40 and 55. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2007, an estimated 178,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women, as well as an estimated 62,030 additional cases of in situ breast cancer. Ap-

proximately 40,460 women are expected to die from breast cancer. Nationwide, there is a new diagnosis every three minutes and a death from breast cancer every fourteen minutes. While advances have been made in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure, early detection still affords the best opportunity for successful treatment. Programs such as Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center help ensure that all women have access to early detection information and options, even poor and medically underserved women.

"We're so very excited about this award," says Pedro Ramirez, the Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center Director. "This will help us reach many more women, particularly in our Filipino, Korean and Latino communities where women aren't getting the breast cancer screenings that they should." "We are proud that the Avon Foundation shares our mission and has chosen to support our program. With these funds we will be able to expand our MHAP Center's outreach activities to enhance breast cancer education and increase early cancer detection" says Mr. Ramirez.

Since 1993, the Avon Foundation has awarded more than 1,100 grants to commu-

nity-based breast health programs across the United States, including Multicultural Health Awareness and Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center. These programs are dedicated to educating underserved women about breast cancer and linking them to early detection screening services.

For more information on the Multicultural Health Awareness & Prevention Center at St. Vincent Medical Center, please call Pedro Ramirez at (213) 484-7385. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org, or the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov.

St. Vincent Medical Center is part of the Daughters of Charity Health System, a non-profit healthcare system spanning the California coast. We are committed to caring for the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

To learn more about the Avon Foundation, call 1-866-505-AVON or visit www.avonfoundation.org, where you can also access the free printable Breast Health Resource Guide in English and Spanish. For information or to register or support the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer events, visit www.avonwalk.org or call 1-888-540-WALK. ■



Juliana Baldoza (right) of the Fil-Am veterans of Carson gives red roses to US Representative Laura Richardson after she spoke at the town hall meeting of the veterans organized by Carson Mayor Jim Dear in Carson Feb. 28. Photo by Nic Arriola

1 in 31 – The long reach of American corrections

WASHINGTON, DC— Explosive growth in the number of people on probation or parole has propelled the population of the American corrections system to more than 7.3 million, or 1 in every 31 U.S. adults, according to a report released today by the Pew Center on the States. The vast majority of these offenders live in the community, yet new data in the report finds that nearly 90 percent of state corrections dollars are spent on prisons. One in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections examines the scale and cost of prison, jail, probation and parole in each of the 50 states, and provides a blueprint for states to cut both crime and spending by reallocating prison expenses to fund stronger supervision of the large number of offenders in the community.

"Most states are facing serious budget deficits," said Susan Urahn, managing director of The Pew Center on the States. "Every single one of them should be making smart investments in community corrections that will help them cut costs and improve outcomes."

In the past two decades, state general fund spending on corrections increased by more than 300 percent, outpacing other essential government services from education, to transportation and public assistance. Only Medicaid spending has grown faster. Today, corrections imposes a national taxpayer burden of \$68 billion a year. Despite this increased spending, recidivism rates have remained largely unchanged.

Research shows that strong community supervision programs for lower-risk, non-violent offenders not only cost significantly less than incarceration but, when appropriately resourced and managed, can cut recidivism by as much as 30 percent. Diverting these offenders to community supervision programs also frees up prison beds needed to house violent offenders, and can offer budget makers additional resources for other pressing public priorities.

One in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections provides a detailed look at who is in the corrections system and which states have the highest populations of offenders behind bars and in the community. Key findings include:

One in 31 adults in America is in prison or jail, or on probation or parole. Twenty-five years ago, the rate was 1 in 77.

Overall, two-thirds of offenders are in the community, not behind bars. 1 in 45 adults is on probation or parole and 1 in 100 is in prison or jail. The proportion of offenders behind bars versus in the community has changed very little over the past 25 years, despite the addition of 1.1 million prison beds.

Correctional control rates are highly concentrated by race and geography: 1 in 11 black adults (9.2 percent) versus 1 in 27 Hispanic adults (3.7 percent) and 1 in 45 white adults (2.2 percent); 1 in 18 men (5.5 percent) versus 1 in 89 women (1.1 percent). The rates can be extremely high in certain neighborhoods. In one block-group of Detroit's East Side, for example, 1 in 7 adult men (14.3 percent) is under correctional control.

Georgia, where 1 in 13 adults is behind bars or under community supervision, leads the top five states that also include Idaho, Texas, Massachusetts, Ohio and the District of Columbia.

The report also analyzes the cost of current sentencing and corrections policies. The National Association of State Budget Officers estimates that states spent a record \$51.7 billion on corrections in FY2008, or 1 in every 15 general fund dollars. Adding local, federal and other funding brings the national correctional spending total to \$68 billion.

While total correctional spending figures have been available before, new data collected by the Pew Center on the States for the report provides the first breakdown of correctional spending by prisons, probation and parole in the past seven years:

In FY 2008, the 34 states for which data are available spent \$18.65 billion on prisons (88 percent of corrections spending), but only \$2.53 billion on probation and parole (12 percent).

For eight states where 25 years of data were available, spending on prisons grew by \$4.74 billion from FY 1983 to FY 2008, while probation and parole spending increased by only \$652 million. This means that while prisons accounted for one-third of the population growth, they consumed 88 percent of the new corrections expenditures.

The 34 states that were able to provide data reported spending as much as 22 times more per day to manage prison inmates than to supervise offenders in the community. The reported average inmate cost was \$79 per day, or nearly \$29,000 per year. The average cost of managing an offender in the community ranged from \$3.42 per day for probationers to \$7.47 per day for parolees, or about \$1,250 to \$2,750 a year.

"Violent and career criminals need to be locked up, and for a long time. But our research shows that prisons are housing too many people who can be managed safely and held accountable in the community at far lower cost," said Adam Gelb, director of the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project, which produced the report. "New community supervision strategies and technologies need to be strengthened and expanded, not scaled back. Cutting them may appear to save a few dollars, but it doesn't. It will fuel the cycle of more crime, more victims, more arrests, more prosecutions, and still more imprisonment."

One in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections provides states with a blueprint and specific case studies for strengthening their community corrections systems, saving money and reducing crime. Research-based recommendations include:

Sort offenders by risk to public safety to determine appropriate levels of supervision;

Base intervention programs on sound research about what works to reduce recidivism;

Harness advances in supervision technology such as electronic monitoring and rapid-result alcohol and drug tests;

Impose swift and certain sanctions for offenders who break the rules of their release but who do not commit new crimes; and

Create incentives for offenders and supervision agencies to succeed, and monitor their performance.

Launched in 2006 as a project of The Pew Center on the States, the Public Safety Performance Project seeks to help states advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs.

The Pew Charitable Trusts applies the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Our Center on the States identifies and advances effective policy approaches to critical issues facing states. Online at www.pewcenteronthestates.org. ■

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