

Rural Healthcare Provider Receives Grant to Fight Colon Cancer

St. Louis , Mo , Monday, January 18, 2016. Rudy Bess of The Hope Light Foundation presented a mini-grant to Chris Morgan of the Community Health and Emergency Services, Inc (CHESI) rural health provider at a meeting of the Healthy Southern Seven Region Coalition in Ullin , Illinois to purchase fifty Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits. The kits will be used to screen CHESI employees for colorectal cancer. Bess is the Founding Director of the St. Louis based Hope Light Foundation and Co-Chair of the Illinois Cancer Partnership. Morgan is the Director of Nursing at CHESI that is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in southernmost Illinois .

The FIT kit is a screening test for colon cancer that tests for hidden blood in the stool which can be an early sign of cancer. FIT only detects human blood from the lower intestines and is not affected by medicines and food. FIT is proven to be more accurate than the Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT), has fewer false positive results and is easier to use.

The Hope Light Foundation encourages businesses, church's, private and public organizations and agencies, schools and cancer related organizations in southern Illinois to promote colorectal cancer screening which can be used to spot changes in the colon and rectum before they have a chance to become cancer. Colorectal cancer has the states 4th highest death rate behind prostate, breast and lung cancers.

The Hope Light Foundation is an active supporter of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's "80% by 2018" initiative in which organizations have committed to eliminate colorectal cancer as a major public health problem and are working toward the shared goal of 80% of adults aged 50 and older being regularly screened for colorectal cancer by 2018.



Pictured above: Front row left to right - Tricia Moehring (Southern Seven Health Department), Jody Johnson (University of Illinois Extension), Greg Smith (Southern Illinois Healthcare), Lacey Barnhill (University of Illinois Extension), Karla Clark (Massac Memorial Hospital). Back row left to right - Sherri Crabb (Family Counseling Center), Ruth Heitkamp (SIU School of Medicine CRHSSD), Ann Stahlheber (Rural Health, Inc), Susie Adams (Union County Counseling), Mickey Finch (The Fellowship House, Inc), Chris Morgan (Community Health & Emergency Services, Inc), Rudy Bess (Hope Light Foundation), Nancy Holt (Southern Seven Health Department), Denise Griffith (Shawnee Community College), Caleb Nehring (American Cancer Society)