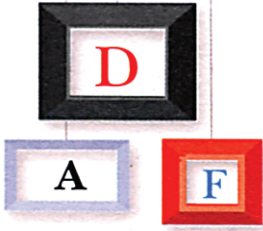


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## Mayor Cook keynotes *Paint the Square Pink* event

On Oct 1, The Breast Cancer Task Force of the Greater Miami Valley organized the annual Paint the Square Pink event at Courthouse Square in downtown Dayton to kick off October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Keynote speaker Mayor Judy Cook addressed the crowd and encouraged all women and men to perform self-breast exams and all women to get their annual mammograms. Until a cure is found, the best prevention is early detection.

A 23-year survivor, Cook described the crowd as an "army of pink-clad warriors" that grows

larger in number and stronger in purpose every year. She noted that it is unlike other militaries-it is an "army of support," as evidenced by the number of organizations participating in Paint the Square Pink, who provide services, raise funds, and supply resources for people affected by breast cancer.



She thanked the Dayton Daily News for the attention it is bringing to breast cancer with its series of articles on breast cancer this month. She has confidence that this coverage will bring some new, hesitant women to their first mammograms, their first line of

defense in protecting themselves from this disease that has affected 2.5 million people to date.

She also expressed concerns about a large group of people in the Dayton region who have lost their health insurance due to their loss of jobs. She urged us all to work harder in this tough environment to make sure women are still able to receive life-saving mammograms. She is also disturbed by statistics that show a decline in the number of mammograms in recent years and the fact that this decline started long before the recession began.

See **Mayor** on page 11

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