



## **NEWS**

### **from the American Cancer Society**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Local Organizations Team Up to Fight Colorectal Cancer** **Polymedco and Open Door Family Medical Centers Join The American Cancer** **Society to Provide Free Community Screening**

White Plains, NY (April 6, 2010) — Colorectal cancer is among the leading causes of cancer death worldwide, but nearly half of people who die failed to get screened.

According to the American Cancer Society, early detection and treatment dramatically increase chances of survival. Local diagnostic company Polymedco, Inc. is partnering with the American Cancer Society of New York to offer a free colorectal cancer screening program in Westchester County, targeting a population who may otherwise miss out on these lifesaving tests.

“Most people are aware that early detection can significantly affect the treatment of cancer. Colorectal cancer when found early is highly treatable,” said Susan Petre, Regional Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Westchester region. “On the heels of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, we want to ensure that we are continuing to increase public awareness of colorectal cancer. This program will make a significant impact in advocating a change in this community to take part in the fight against colorectal cancer.”

Polymedco will distribute free screening tests during this program and multilingual education brochures at the Open Door Family Medical Centers located in Ossining, Mount Kisco, Sleepy Hollow, and Port Chester aiming to increase the community's screening rate from 800 participants in 2009 to 2,000 over the course of one year or more. Open Door provides medical care to an underserved population. "The purpose of any screening initiative is to utilize an effective, widely-available screening method to find a common and potentially devastating medical illness that - when detected earlier - can be readily treated. Colon cancer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cancer to strike men and women in this country. We know that providing these screenings saves lives, and in fact also saves the healthcare system a lot of dollars. It's a win-win any way you look at it.", said Daren Wu, Chief Medical Officer at Open Door and practicing family physician.

The OC FIT-CHEK® test is a quick and easy screening method that measures human hemoglobin in the patient's stool. The test can be performed at home with little disruption to the patient's daily routine – requiring only one sample collection and no changes to diet or medication. The higher specificity of FIT means that there are less false positive results.

"Our goal is to introduce the benefits of getting an annual screening using a fecal immunochemical test (FIT)," said Drew Cervasio, President of Polymedco. "Innovations in screening have significantly improved the detection of breast, prostate and cervical cancers so it is time to pay attention to the advances that can drive more patients to find colorectal cancer earlier."

Screening is the most realistic approach to reducing new cases by finding non-cancerous colorectal polyps and removing them before they become cancerous. BioReference Laboratories of Elmwood Park, NJ will be providing the testing service for this program. Tests were distributed beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup> and findings from this program will be reported after one year. For more information about the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). For more information on FIT screening and colorectal cancer, please visit [www.fobt-tests.com](http://www.fobt-tests.com) or [www.opendoormedical.org](http://www.opendoormedical.org).

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***About Polymedco, Inc.***

*Polymedco Inc. is a leading marketing and distribution company in the clinical laboratory marketplace. Polymedco is a supplier of clinical diagnostic test kits and devices specializing in non-invasive colorectal cancer screening technology in which we are a world leader. Since 1980, Polymedco has evolved into a highly skilled and successful marketing, sales, and manufacturing organization. With a team of 40 field representatives combined with strong technical service personnel, Polymedco provides a high level of customer, technical, and reimbursement support. As an innovative company that often leads the marketplace with new products, Polymedco continues to search out new products and new market opportunities. For more information, please visit [www.polymedco.com](http://www.polymedco.com).*

***About the American Cancer Society***

*The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing about \$3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us any time, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).*

***About Open Door Family Medical Centers***

*Open Door is a top rated Patient-Centered Medical Home™ (PPC-PCMH™) recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), a ranking that distinguishes them from medical practices across the nation as less than 12% are presently able to achieve this advanced standing. The federally qualified community health center serves a vast multi-cultural community and has provided top quality medical, dental care and social services to the Westchester community, particularly the economically disadvantaged, for 38 years. Open Door has four centers in Westchester located in Ossining, Port Chester, Mt. Kisco and Sleepy Hollow. In addition, Open Door operates School-Based Health Centers in Port Chester at The Edison Elementary School, Kennedy Magnet School, Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School. In 2009, approximately 41,000 patients were treated at Open Door, making nearly 200,000 patient visits. Over 13,483 children were treated during that same year. Funding for Open Door Family Medical Centers comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.*