



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **AnMed Health Foundation sets \$1.1 million goal for mobile unit**

*(Anderson, S.C. – Nov. 21, 2013)* – The AnMed Health Foundation is turning the battle against breast cancer into a street fight.

The foundation has set a \$1.1 million fund-raising goal to put diagnostic equipment on the road. The funds will purchase a mobile diagnostic unit to take mammography and other screenings to people who can't or won't go to a doctor's office for screenings.

"A number of women out there are already fighting breast cancer and don't know it yet because they haven't been screened," said Kathy Hood, director of radiology at AnMed Health. "We know that for a variety of reasons, some women just don't get screened for breast cancer, but our hope is many of them will if screenings are offered in their neighborhood or at their church through our mobile diagnostic unit. What we want to do is make services accessible so they can begin their fight."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the number two cause of death. One in eight women will be diagnosed; in 2012 in Anderson County that came to 274 women diagnosed with breast cancer. In 30 percent of the cases nationally, by the time breast cancer is diagnosed, it has spread beyond the breast.

"That's why early diagnosis is so important," Hood said. "We have come a long way in diagnosing and treating breast cancer and we have good outcomes when it's caught early, but to raise the number of early diagnoses, we need to raise the number of screenings, and to have more screenings, we need to make them readily available."

In addition to its central purpose of providing breast cancer screening and education, the mobile diagnostic unit also will serve as an entry point for health care, providing opportunities to connect women to primary care. A properly outfitted mobile unit can serve more than one cause, too, offering screenings for risks such as stroke, aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and bone density problems.

"More than a century ago AnMed Health's founder envisioned a hospital that would provide care for everyone," said AnMed Health CEO John Miller. "Today we find new ways to make sure no one is overlooked. The next step is the AnMed Health mobile

diagnostic unit. Your support will help us help women take that first crucial step in breast health.”

The AnMed Health system is home to more than 40 physician practices with doctors specializing in primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopaedics, cardiology, vascular medicine, electrophysiology, gastroenterology and several surgery specialties. To learn more or to find a doctor near you, go online to [www.AnMedHealth.org](http://www.AnMedHealth.org).

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