



PA Commission For Women Health Education Kiosk Helps Women Access Health Information

Posted: Fri, 13 Mar 2009 17:30:47 GMT

Author: Pennsylvania Commission for Women

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 13 PA women- health-kiosk

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 13 /PR Newswire-US Newswire/ -- To help women to take control of their health by improving their access to important health information, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women and First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell today announced the placement of bilingual, touch-activated self-service Women's Wellness Guide kiosks in two Philadelphia-area Acme Markets.

"Women have a tendency to care for everyone else but themselves, and their own health ends up low on the priority list," said Leslie Stiles, executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

"Providing ready access to potentially life-saving medical information and educating women, especially those in overburdened communities, about prevention and early detection of diseases is an essential component for a productive life."

Shoppers can spend a few minutes with the kiosk to learn about heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, depression, asthma, diet and exercise, weight management, smoking, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and insurance options. Information is accessible in English or Spanish, and the machine can also provide audio for individuals with visual impairments or literacy issues.

"Knowledge is power when it comes to your health. This kiosk and others will hopefully empower women to find answers to health issues, and we are excited about the opportunity that these kiosks will provide for women across the state," said First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell.

The Pennsylvania Commission for Women is providing 12 kiosks, free of charge, to targeted locations across Pennsylvania. The Acme Markets kiosks are at 7010 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia; and 121 East City Ave., Bala

Cynwyd. "Acme is proud to be offering this service in two of our Philadelphia-area stores," said Judy Spires, president of Acme Markets. "We feel that this program will be instrumental in educating women on health and wellness issues." Additional kiosks are located in county assistance offices, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices, health care clinics and prison waiting rooms.

The Women's Wellness Guide Health Education kiosks report their usage to St. Andrew Development's – the program developer – web server. Francis X. McKee, President reports that data show over 3,000 individual users accessing the programs over a period of four months. "This indicates strong usage and an audience seeking specific information that departs from what we would generally expect the health conscious consuming public to access. Interestingly, more users seek information on STD's than cancer and heart disease combined"

McKee also pointed out that users like what they are using and also plan to take away information they have obtained and apply it to their lives. "Each kiosk has evaluation tools within the program and over 90% of users indicated that their experience using the kiosk was favorable. More importantly, they indicated that they are going to do something to change their life – for the better."

For more information about the commission's kiosk program, contact the Pennsylvania Commission for Women at (717) 787-8128 or visit their Web site at www.pcw.state.pa.us.

Inquiries can also be made to St. Andrew Development, Inc. by calling (717) 848-5818, email Wellness@StAndrew.com or visit their web site at www.StAndrew.com.

Since 1964, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women has worked to identify and advance the diverse needs and interests of Pennsylvania women and girls; to inform, educate and advocate for its constituents; and to provide opportunities to empower women and girls to reach their highest potential.

CONTACTS: Anne C. Bale (717) 787-8128, FRANCIS X. McKee (717) 848-5818.

***** END OF RELEASE *****