

Men benefit from Avondale health fair

By Janet Weeks

Contributing writer

Only 40 men showed up the first prostate health fair in Avondale on Saturday, but Jefferson Community Health Care Center CEO Carol Smith said

she was pleased with the event nonetheless.

"Getting people to buy into preventive medicine is always a problem," Smith said.

But one man who attended is probably glad that he did, she said, because his "blood pressure was significantly elevated."

Volunteer doctors prescribed 15 days worth of medicine for the man and scheduled a follow-up appointment.

Several health groups such as the American Cancer Society, Blood Center of Southeast Louisiana, West Jefferson Fitness Center, Louisiana Department

of Health & Hospitals, American Lung Association and the Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans were on hand to help participants with education about health issues.

The Health Center provided

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Several health groups share info

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free cholesterol, blood pressure and blood glucose testing with

Xavier University volunteers.

Smith said, "I am excited to be here. I want the community to know we are here for them."

"We don't want anyone without health insurance to go uncared for," she said. "Our services are based on income, so no one is turned away."

Smith's assistant, Carol Evans, said she is glad to see the fair too.

"This is just the beginning, she said. "We are also planning on having a Women's Breast

Cancer Awareness Fair" on Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Avondale Community Center.

Urologists Wesley Bryan and Pablo Labadie gave prostate examinations.

The doctors said they want to help the community any way they can.

Both doctors practice at West Jefferson Medical Center and go to many fairs throughout the area to volunteer their services.

For more information on the Jefferson Community Health Care Center, call 366-9484.

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