



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For information contact: Shawna Rhine, Community Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer
Southern 7 Health Department & Head Start
Phone: 618-626-2355 or 618-634-2297 ext. 971161 Cell: 618-614-9223 Email: srhine@s7hd.org

Release presented in partnership by Massac Memorial Hospital, Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital, Hardin County General Hospital, Rural Health, Inc., CHESI (Community Health & Emergency Services), Southern 7 Health Department, Aetna Better Health® of Illinois, and the Hope Light Foundation

(10/14/25) The 2025 CWWH “Community Health Resource Fair” in Metropolis a Success (Over 45 Healthcare Agencies and Businesses Participated)

The 2025 Cancer Warriors Walk for Hope (CWWH) “Community Health Resource Fair” was held on October 4 at the Dorothy Miller Park in Metropolis, Illinois. Organizers of the free, family event, which offered information on cancer screenings, cardiovascular health, behavioral health, and other vital health services, are calling it a tremendous success in providing needed resources to families living in Southern Illinois.

More than 45 local and regional healthcare agencies and businesses participated in the Fair either through monetary donations and/or volunteering at the event; of those, 35 set up a resource booth at the event. The Fair collected over \$5,700 to support healthcare programs in the region and next year’s fair. Coordinators are grateful for the kind support of this year’s many sponsors, vendors, volunteers, media and news partners, and to the City of Metropolis for the use of the park and other necessary services provided to make the day a wonderful success.

This year’s Fair also included an opening ceremony that featured a presentation by Dr. Johnathan Walters, MD with Massac Memorial Hospital, on the value and necessity of healthcare resources in the region. A Recognition of Service Award was presented to the family of Rhonda Andrews-Ray, Executive Director for Southern 7 Health Department who passed away suddenly this past July, in honor of her achievements in public health. And a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Shawna Rhine, Community Outreach Coordinator for Southern 7 Health Department for her work in planning this year’s Fair.

The “Community Health Resource Fair” is presented by members of the CWWH, a Metropolis Hope Light Project: Massac Memorial Hospital, Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital, Hardin County General Hospital, Rural Health, Inc., CHESI (Community Health & Emergency Services), Southern 7 Health Department, the Hope Light Foundation, and Aetna Better Health® of Illinois.

Plans are already underway for next year’s “Community Health Resource Fair” to be held on October 3 at Dorothy Miller Park. In addition, a cancer walk is being planned in the region for some time in 2026.

For more details, or to be a vendor or sponsor of the CWWH “Community Health Resource Fair”, visit the Cancer Warriors Walk for Hope Facebook page or contact Shawna Rhine at Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297 ext. 971161.

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