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Nonprofit Joins Forces in the Battle against Breast Cancer

Grace Institute promotes early breast cancer detection in economically disadvantaged women through awareness and free screening events this fall.

New York, New York (Oct. 2, 2007)— The nonprofit **Grace Institute** has teamed up with **American Cancer Society** and **American-Italian Cancer Foundation** for two lifesaving events in the fight against breast cancer. As part of its ongoing commitment to the well-being of underserved NYC women and the community, Grace Institute is helping to educate women about early detection. In 2003, about 182,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer while another 42,000 died from the disease, and 1 in 8 women born today will be diagnosed with it at some time in their lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

October is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, and Grace Institute is working hard to ensure that minority and economically disadvantaged women have access to education and screening that could potentially save their lives. Grace Institute is lending its support for a third consecutive year by joining in ACS's annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk on Sunday, **October 21, 2007** in Central Park. More than 50 Grace students, alumnae, and staff will participate in the 5-mile walk in an effort to educate women about prevention and early detection and raise funds and awareness. As of today, the Grace Team has surpassed their donation goal of **\$2,000 by over \$1,800** and continues to raise additional funds.

Early detection is crucial in saving women's lives. Unfortunately, a CDC report earlier this year revealed an alarming decline in women over 40 getting mammograms. In order to combat this disturbing trend, Grace Institute has partnered with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation and Women's Outreach Network to provide **free mammography services** to women at high risk for undetected breast cancer—the medically underserved. Starting at 8AM on Thursday, **November 8, 2007**, a mobile mammography van will be outside of Grace Institute where women 40 and older can receive a free mammogram, clinical breast exam, instruction in breast self-exam, and educational materials. Women must make an appointment by calling **1-800-564-6868**.

Grace students come from all five boroughs and beyond and are from myriad backgrounds—age, race, ethnicity, religious. They are mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters. Breast cancer makes no distinction. It is the most common cancer in women (excluding some forms of skin cancer) no matter race or ethnicity and is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Hispanic women and the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in women of all other ethnicities, according to the CDC.

Founded in 1897 by W.R. Grace, twice mayor of New York City, Grace Institute began as a school to help New York women, especially immigrants, find employment. For over 100 years, Grace Institute has provided tuition-free, practical job training in a supportive learning community for underserved New York area women of all ages and from many different backgrounds. In the tradition of its founding family, Grace is dedicated to the development of the personal and business skills necessary for self-sufficiency, employability and an improved quality of life.