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Free medical tests at Hispanic health fair

Spanish speakers will offer services

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ERLANGER - Free health screenings will be available at the Hispanic Health Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Marydale Catholic Center, 927 Donaldson Road.

Volunteers will screen for diabetes, high cholesterol, dental, vision and hearing issues. Mammograms, pap smears and confidential HIV/AIDS testing will also be available.

"We don't provide any actual treatment," said Sarah Hughes, a nurse and special-projects coordinator with North Central Area Health Education Center. "But these are basic screening tests, and if they indicate a problem, we help them find a place to go for care.

"Many of the folks get referred to Healthpoint Family Care and they have Spanish-speaking providers who will be there on Sunday."

Hughes said the fair is not limited to Spanish speakers.

"It is open to anyone in the community, but the services are available in English and Spanish," she said. "We have Anglos who come as well. We're happy to serve anyone."

The fair does try to address a need the fair sponsors found in the Hispanic community. For a number of years the education center worked with the advocacy group Centro de Amistad, Cristo Rey, Northern Kentucky's Hispanic parish.

"Our work with them led to the realization that many Hispanics didn't get regular health care or weren't comfortable with the health care system," said Hughes.

The fair will also be a chance for several groups to perform community outreach.

"(There are) over 100 community volunteers that come on Sunday," said Hughes. "Four Gateway nursing faculty members will be there doing the finger sticks, eight to 10 dental students from the University of Louisville supervised by two licensed dentists will be helping. Three other students from the University of Louisville who are training to become audiologists are providing the hearing screenings."

A Dixie Heights High School Spanish class will help at the fair.

The fair is a partnership of North Central Area Health Education Center, Gateway Community and Technical College, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Lions Clubs, St. Luke Hospital and the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department.
