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Hard Work Brings Digital Mammogram Service To SW Kansans

For years women in rural southwest Kansas had to drive all the way to Wichita if they wanted a digital mammogram. But thanks to a celebrity basketball game, today they were able to be inspected in their own hometown.

It is a dream come true for a small southwest Kansas town. A coach bus furnished with a state-of-the-art digital mammography station will save a lot of time and energy for women in the area.

"For the women to be able to do that here in Ashland instead of having to drive," breast cancer survivor Michelle Krier says, "I think that is going to be a big motivator."

The mobile digital mammography station made its first appearance in Ashland Thursday and it will now be a monthly occurrence because of the money raised from a celebrity basketball game last October.

Ashland Health Center CEO Benjamin Anderson says, "The first celebrity to confirm was Jackie Stiles. Then Shalee Lehning from Sublette, Kansas said she would come. "It really went big when Fox Sports Network agreed to come on board and broadcast the game out of our high school gym, a town of 900 people."

The WEPAC Alliance organization orchestrated the game and other weekend events. They say it is great to see everything come full circle "It's enormous. It's the best thing. Of course our biggest goal was to get digital mammogram to come to the community."

When you compare this to the alternative it truly is an incredible thing for the community. Anderson adds, "Digital mammography services used to be 2 1/2 hours away and now they are going to be right in your backyard."

The Second Annual Hoops for Hope Game will be held on October 29th. Tickets go on sale October 3rd.

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