

Project Highlight



Coffee County Family Services Center and the Butterfly Project

Lucille Latham knows much about the burden of breast cancer. She lost her grandmother to it and in 1988, Lucille was diagnosed with breast cancer. When the cancer returned five years later, she prayed for a way to turn her experiences into something positive. Since then, she has accomplished that goal numerous times by educating countless women about the importance of breast cancer awareness.

Lucille's commitment to ensuring that no woman is forgotten is what drives her to spend more than ten hours per week traveling the roads of Alabama with Sheriff Bryce Paul, carrying a message of hope and breast self care to women in jails who may not be reached through other methods.

Lucille and Coffee County Family Services' Executive Director Judy Crowley have created a team of state, local, and private providers to reach incarcerated women. In the past seven years, as an Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund grantee, Coffee County Family Services Center has provided education to more than 5,607 women in local jails and throughout Alabama. This partnership is known as the Butterfly Project. The Butterfly Project has produced a film called "How to Save Your Life With the Touch of Your Fingers," that will be shown through the Corrections Learning Satellite Network nationwide. This film will reach approximately 700 correctional facilities within 48 states with each showing reaching approximately 200,000 inmates.

Lucille's successful breast education work among incarcerated women has encouraged other health education programs to reach out to these women, including the American Cancer Society's Tobacco program. Lucille states, "No matter where you are—you still [are] a woman in need of services."

Lucille Latham cannot put a price tag on what reaching out to women with a message of hope has done for her, but she states, "Avon made it possible." The Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund is proud to support the Coffee County Family Services Center and Lucille's personal vision for the Butterfly Project, giving women the information and courage to seek early detection services—making sure that no woman is left behind.

For more information on the Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund, visit: www.avonbreastcare.org.