

# Projects and Publications

## **Project HEAL Celebrates a Successful Program**

**Project HEAL** (Cancer Health Through Early Awareness and Learning) wrapped up a successful grant period, five months ahead of schedule!

The main goal of **Project HEAL** is to teach the community through the churches about cancers that have an impact within Black communities. The project is a partnership between **Project HEAL**, the PATIENTS Program, and fourteen West Baltimore Community Black Churches.

Our own "Miss Bj," Bj Robinson-Shaneman was the community coordinator for the West Baltimore Black Churches. She got and looked at data collected from baseline and follow-up surveys every 6, 12, 18, and 24 months. She also worked with individual pastors as they completed Church Leadership Surveys to get their thoughts about the program.

Bj gave six-hour long sessions of training and additional technical assistance to Community Health Advisors (CHA) on required skills such as cancer presentations and workshops as well as core content needed to lead **Project HEAL** cancer education workshops.

# Projects and Publications

## Project HEAL in Action



Top left: Dr. Pastor Jermaine Johnson, his church CHAs, Dr. Cheryl Knotts, Bj Robinson-Shaneman and her other **Project HEAL** Cancer instructors at Word of Life Community Church in Baltimore, MD. Large African fan Dr. Knotts is holding was a gift from Bj.



Top right: Bj with **Project HEAL** graduates and pastor of New Waverly United Methodist Church in Baltimore, MD.

# Projects and Publications



Top right: Bj with **Project HEAL** graduates and Pastor Mason at Perkins Square Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD.

# Projects and Publications

## **Project HEAL Celebrates a Successful Program (continued)**

For each church, she put on a three-part educational workshop series to make up the 6-hour training. Each Church Pastor chose two to four people to be CHAs from their congregation for this training.

Each CHA took part in a 6-hour training series:

- o Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Colorectal Cancer
- o Anatomy and Physiology
- o Disease signs and symptoms
- o Disease progression and effect
- o Blacks affected compared to other races
- o Disease prevention through testing for colorectal cancer
- o Relationship of these cancers to other health disparities among Blacks
- o Learning the skill of being informed helps remove the fear of cancer when sharing knowledge and awareness
- o Community resources for referrals with hand-out cancer literature

Bj was also able to report data for scientific purposes and report project findings to each individual church and participants.

"Serving as the Coordinator for the West Baltimore Black Churches allowed me to provide an in-person delivery of data and findings for each individual church," she says.