Residents pack Bristol Hospital for annual health fair

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Booths littered with sweet treats, giveaways and literature attracted many attendants. Nurses and physicians performed free blood pressure checks, ear-wax build up checks and administered free flu shots to the first 25 people.

"We love going to health fairs," said Frances Achilli, who was accompanied by her husband, Peter Achilli. "First of all, all the services they have here are local so you don't have to go somewhere else if you need a certain service."

Peter Achilli said they both like that they get the opportunity to meet some of the doctors while at the same time picking up important information.

"We really wanted to do something with our multi-specialty group and provide screenings and services to our community," said Bethany Spada, marketing specialist at Bristol Hospital. "This was also a great opportunity for some of our physicians to meet the community."

Kevin Bartram | Staff

Zoe, a service dog, rides in a wheelchair with her owner's friend Linda Gass at a health fair coordinated by Bristol Hospital and Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group on Thursday at the hospital in Bristol. Right, Nurse Christine Christgau checks Heidi Brown's blood pressure.

More than 50 doctors, nurses and hospital staff interacted with guests answering questions about available services. At least 25 of the hospital's specialty clinics displayed their services in Hughes Auditorium, including the new cancer care center, obstetrics/gynecology, comprehensive spine and pain center, home care, geriatrics, counseling center and the parent/child center. Other free services included blood sugar screenings, sleep screenings and back massages from the hospital's wellness center massage therapist.

"Today on our agenda is to promote the prevention of breast cancer," said Alicia Gadzinski, clinical research nurse at the new breast health center.

Susan Taylor, of Bristol, said she saw a sign advertising the health fair and just had to drop by.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to meet some of the doctors and some of the hospital's interesting services," said Taylor. "I also wanted to pick up some information for an older friend of mine."

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