



Free prostate screening was a 'big' success

BY MIKE QUALLS
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A free clinic for the screening for prostate cancer at the Monroe County Health Department was a "big" success Saturday, according to Sherry Wilson of Urology Centers of Alabama in Birmingham.

Ricky Elliott, director of Monroe County Public Health Department, said the health department teamed up with Dr. Thomas Moody of Urology Centers and the Urology Health Foundation to conduct the free clinic. Elliott said the Alabama State Legislature approved a \$100,000 grant to cover the costs of the screenings that were held in several Black Belt counties across the state.

Wilson said a "record-breaking" number of men participated in this free screening. She said 107 men received the screenings that included PSA checks and a

physical examination of the prostate gland. She said 17 men were diagnosed as possibly having prostate cancer. Further testing will be scheduled for those men.

She said of the 107 men screened, 76 were African Americans and 31 were Caucasians. The average age was 57. The youngest person screened was 35 and the oldest was 85.

"It was a very successful day," said Wilson. "Most of the men said they learned about the clinic by reading the articles that were published in The Monroe Journal. We appreciate The Journal's help in getting the word out."

Prostate cancer is the second leading killer (behind lung cancer) among men in the United States. Early detection and treatment are key factors in addressing prostate cancer. For more information about prostate cancer visit www.urology-centersalabama.com.

Conducting the free clinic were, from left, front row, Sandra McRee, Debra Oakley, Selena Dreadin, Monique Stallworth and Vickie Johnson; and, back row, Ruth Underwood, Rose-

mary Frost, Dr. Tom Moody, Stephen Jaye, Dr. George Adams and Ricky Elliott. (Submitted photo)