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NEWS RELEASE

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Custer Health Continues Colorectal Cancer Screening and Education with NDCCCP in Standing Rock

MANDAN, ND – The North Dakota Department of Health’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has announced that Custer Health has been awarded a \$7,000 grant for the upcoming year. Custer Health will use this grant to continue the Colorectal Cancer Screening and Education Project on the Standing Rock Reservation. This is the ninth year that Custer Health has received this grant from the North Dakota Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NDCCCP).

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in North Dakota. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer found for Northern Plains Native Americans. This is the reason why projects such as the Standing Rock Reservation Colorectal Cancer Screening and Education Project are vital to prevent cancer, save lives and improve the quality of lives of North Dakotans. The goal of this project is to increase the rate of colorectal cancer screening and education of Standing Rock men and women over the age of 40.

“My advice to anyone is to educate yourself about colon cancer and prevention because it is an ongoing problem,” says Elliott Rhoades, colon cancer survivor from Standing Rock. Screening tests help find precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) so they can be removed before they have a chance to turn into cancer. This prevents colorectal cancer. Screening also can find this cancer early, when treatment is most effective.

For more information about Custer Health’s Colorectal Cancer Screening and Education Project, please contact Jodie Fetsch RN 701-667-3370 jfetsch@custerhealth.com.

Custer Health is a five county multi-district public health unit in North Dakota providing services to the people of Mercer, Oliver, Grant, Morton, and Sioux Counties. Visit www.custerhealth.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/custerhealth to learn more.

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