Free to Breathe 5K Event

The Athens Lung Cancer Partnership’s Free to Breathe 5-K Event was held November 10th at Sandy Creek Park in Athens.

Approximately 400 people ran or walked in the event with proceeds going to lung cancer research. Friends and family members of the runners also attended who did not run. Most of the runners ran in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Radon Educator Becky Chenhall was invited to share radon information and urge all the people attending to test for radon. She emphasized the fact that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the first leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. She was placed, with the radon exhibit, in an excellent location adjacent to the registration pavilion, where all participants congregated. Ms. Chenhall talked with two lung cancer survivors who attended—both were diagnosed less than a year ago.

Chenhall spoke with the mother of a 26 year old lung cancer survivor who never smoked. She gave a radon test kit to her to test the home for radon. The family lives in the Athens area and was anxious to test their home.

A table with photos in memory of loved ones along with short stories of their lung cancer battle was displayed in the pavilion. Several of those were in their 20’s and 30’s. “Lung cancer is no longer an old person’s disease”, said pulmonologist Dr. Cynthia Shepherd. Dr. Shepherd was a speaker at the event and mentioned that currently pharmaceutical companies are making chemo treatments specific to target specific lung cancer mutations. All lung cancers are not the same, and it seems especially in younger patients that the mutations in the lung cancer cells are different.

Hayden Guthrie, 2012 Georgia & National Radon Poster Contest Winner, along with his father and grandfather, ran in the event. He and his father talked with Chenhall after the run about radon and Hayden representing Georgia.

Chenhall distributed radon brochures, pads, and pens. This event reached people all over the state and a few out of state.
Radon Success Story

Robert Fangman tested his Monroe home for radon when he heard of radon’s potential health effects. He learned from the Walton County Extension Radon Program that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause among non-smokers. He received a test kit from UGA Radon Educator, Becky Chenhall, at the Extension Office to test his home.

He tested his finished basement and the test result was 10.3 pCi/L. EPA recommends fixing all homes with a radon level of 4.0 pCi/L or above. Ms. Chenhall provided Mr. Fangman with information on radon mitigation, a list of Georgia Certified Radon Mitigators, and EPA’s “How to Fix Your Home” brochure. Ms. Chenhall spoke with Mr. Fangman about his elevated radon and urged him to contact several certified radon mitigators.

Mr. Fangman selected a radon mitigator from the certified list to install the mitigation system. The mitigation system consisted of two vent pipes with inline fans extending from underneath the basement foundation to above the roof. The radon gas is diverted from under the home to the outside air above the home—instead of entering the house.

The homeowner retested for radon after the mitigation installation and the result was down to 1.4 pCi/L. A test result under 4.0 pCi/L is acceptable and the lower, the better. A test result will not be zero because radon is naturally occurring.

The Fangmans are pleased with the mitigation system and the radon test result. Mrs. Fangman frequently uses the basement for exercise and she notices a difference in the air. The mitigation system not only reduces radon, but also moisture, methane and other soil gases, therefore improving indoor air quality. The Fangmans are no longer concerned about elevated radon when family members sleep over in the basement bedrooms and they encourage others with high radon to “go ahead and fix your home today.”

Becky Chenhall Provides Radon Education to Medical Professionals

In October, Becky Chenhall participated in the Medical Fair at Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee. The fair recruits medical students and medical professionals for positions in rural areas of Georgia. More than 100 attended and Chenhall spoke with between 50 and 60 medical students. Most had heard of radon, but knew very little about it and the radon potential in Georgia. The medical students/physicians were most interested in radon, testing, education, health effects & mitigation. She was able to reach more medical professionals in an afternoon than normally could be reached in a couple of months. Many said they intended to relay the information to patients and were going to promote radon testing, along with other preventative health measures. Attending the Medical Fair was a great opportunity with far-reaching implications.
## Radon Outreach Program Contacts & Media Impressions

### October through December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIRG Data - UGA</th>
<th>October 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Contacts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hall</strong></td>
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<td>Programs-Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials Distributed</td>
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<td>Exhibits-Events</td>
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<td>Home Builders</td>
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<td>Realtors</td>
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<td>Consumer Contacts</td>
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<td>Kit Usage Data</td>
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<td>Kits Distributed</td>
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<td>Results Received</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;= 4 pCi/L</td>
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<td>Incomplete</td>
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<td>% &lt;= 4 pCi/L</td>
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<td>Mitigation Data</td>
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<td>RRNC</td>
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<td>Mitigation Referrals</td>
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<td>Media Impressions</td>
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<td>Total Impressions</td>
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*1 RRNC & Mitigation data reported annually in the 3rd quarter by Certified Mitigators in GA.
## Radon Outreach

Program Contacts & Media Impressions October 2003 through December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM CONTACTS</th>
<th>Hall</th>
<th>DeKalb</th>
<th>Gwinnett</th>
<th>Elbert</th>
<th>Walton</th>
<th>Southface</th>
<th>Other(^1)</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs / Meetings</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>1,084</td>
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<td>Participants</td>
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<td>4,335</td>
<td>15,112</td>
<td>3,866</td>
<td>21,016</td>
<td>17,946</td>
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<td>11,441</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td><strong>Exhibits or Events(^1)</strong></td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>701</td>
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<td><strong>Participants</strong></td>
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<td>6,558</td>
<td>146,287</td>
<td>11,978</td>
<td>152,916</td>
<td>13,798</td>
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<td><strong>Materials Distributed</strong></td>
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<td>50,145</td>
<td>8,057</td>
<td>23,740</td>
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<th>OTHER CONTACTS</th>
<th>Hall</th>
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<th>Gwinnett</th>
<th>Elbert</th>
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<th>Other(^1)</th>
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<td>1,385</td>
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<td>4,153</td>
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<td>Medical professionals</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>Walton</td>
<td>Southface</td>
<td>Other(^1)</td>
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<td>Test Results Received</td>
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<td>2,434</td>
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<td>5,496</td>
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<th>MITIGATION DATA</th>
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<th>Gwinnett</th>
<th>Elbert</th>
<th>Walton</th>
<th>Southface</th>
<th>Other(^1)</th>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>412</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDIA IMPRESSIONS</th>
<th>Hall</th>
<th>DeKalb</th>
<th>Gwinnett</th>
<th>Elbert</th>
<th>Walton</th>
<th>Southface</th>
<th>Other(^1)</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>Radio Outreach</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4,278</td>
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<td>3,670,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>4,020,000</td>
<td>2,683,000</td>
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<td>377,000</td>
<td>15,609,000</td>
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<td>TV Outreach</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>264</td>
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<td>437</td>
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<td>Viewing Audience</td>
<td>25,020,100</td>
<td>12,733,000</td>
<td>73,981,740</td>
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<td>27,831,000</td>
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<td>16,746</td>
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<td>State Web Hits(^6)</td>
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<td>TOTAL IMPRESSIONS</td>
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<td>75,343,422</td>
<td>4,208,614</td>
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<td>2,219,344</td>
<td>8,837,554</td>
<td>176,548,013</td>
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</tbody>
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\(^1\) Other includes radon education/results of former radon educators and county FACS/4-H Agents.

\(^2\) Reported quarterly by Southface only.

\(^3\) Certified GA mitigators report their mitigations & RRNCs annually in the J-S quarter in the "other" column.

\(^4\) Began tracking Jan. 1, 2010

\(^5\) UGA Radon Program web hits are shared equally among the 5 radon educators
RADON RESOURCES & CONTACTS

Georgia Indoor Radon Grant Administration
Jim Frederick, Office Director  j jim.frederick@dca.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Community Affairs–Office of Planning and Environmental Management
60 Executive Park South NE, Atlanta, GA 30329  404-679-3105

Adriane Wood, Grant Coordinator  adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Community Affairs—Office of Planning and Environmental Management
479 Cherry Street, Macon, GA 31201  478-319-0433

Radon Hotline Numbers

National Hotlines

Kansas State University / EPA  1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236)
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

National Hispanic Indoor Air Quality  1-800-725-8312

The Radon Fix It Line: (National Safety Program)  1-800-644-6999

Get live help for your radon questions  1-800-55RADON (557-2366)*

Radon Fix-It Hotline—General information on reducing radon levels  1-800-644-6999*

Safe Drinking Water Hotline  1-800-426-4791

*Operated by Kansas State University in partnership with EPA

The Georgia Radon Education Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Planning and Environmental Management, in partnership with the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension.

UGA Radon Program Team

Dr. Pamela R. Turner, Director
706-542-9165
prturner@uga.edu

Ginger Bennett
770-535-8290
bennettg@uga.edu

Becky Chenhall
770-267-1324
chenhall@uga.edu

www.ugaradon.org

Volume X  5  December 2012