



Phone (410) 871-7645

Fax (410) 871-6325

[www.HealthyCarroll.org](http://www.HealthyCarroll.org)

535 Old Westminster Pike,

Suite 102

Westminster, Maryland 21157

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Dawn Eldridge, 410-876-4984

[deldridge@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:deldridge@dhhm.state.md.us)

### **The Partnership Promotes Smoking Cessation at Carroll Hospital Center “Lunch and Learn”**

**Westminster, Md.** – (November 17, 2009) – November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County advocates smoke-free and tobacco-free living for all residents of Carroll County. Almost all forms of tobacco use are known to cause cancer, including lung cancer caused by smoking.

As part of its efforts to inform and educate tobacco users and their families, The Partnership is co-sponsoring a “Lunch and Learn” presentation for employees and associates of Carroll Hospital Center. “Smoking Cessation Strategies” will be presented by Kevin Ferentz, M.D., associate professor of family and community medicine at the University of Maryland on November 30. Dr. Ferentz will speak as part of the Hospital’s *Great American Smokeout* program.

Smoking causes at least 30 percent of all cancer deaths and 87 percent of deaths as a result of lung cancer each year. An estimated 443,000 people each year die prematurely from smoking. About 49,400 of these deaths are nonsmokers who were exposed to secondhand smoke.

The Partnership urges tobacco users and their families to get the facts and tools they need to begin a tobacco-free, smoke-free way of life. The Carroll County Health Department offers free quit-tobacco classes and other resources. Call 410-876-4429 for current information and class locations. Another excellent resource is the [Smoke-Free Carroll County](http://www.healthycarroll.org/smokefreecarrollcounty/) web site at [www.healthycarroll.org/smokefreecarrollcounty/](http://www.healthycarroll.org/smokefreecarrollcounty/).

*The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc., an affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center and the Carroll County Health Department, is a private, nonprofit community led organization that seeks to build capacity for both health and quality of life improvement.*

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