

HealthVisions Update

HealthVisions Midwest, Inc.—Lake County, IN
Health Ministry Partnership— St. Joseph, Marshall, Elkhart County, IN
HealthVisions Fort Wayne—Allen County, IN
Living for Life—Starke County, IN
Chicago Health Collaborative - Chicago, IL
Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, IN

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This issue features: Health Ministry Partnership-St. Joseph, Marshall, Elkhart Counties

National Faith In Action Conference



Renetta Williams,FW, Mary Rooney, Judith Rice,SB

Welcome

Judith Rice assumed the leadership of the Faith In Action - Respite Care program on the first of February. Judith has a wealth of experience in serving the needs of seniors in St. Joseph County. Her accomplishments and skills fit the respite program perfectly! We are delighted that she is part of our team

2004 marks the 20-year anniversary of interfaith volunteer care giving, which began with The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards to 25 organizations in 1984. These original programs were funded to engage coalition members in the important work of providing neighborly support to people with long-term health needs. This year's conference was designed to build on the spirit of **Faith In Action** that began 20 years ago and that continues to make a difference in the lives of neighbors everywhere. This year's conference theme –**Connecting the Past, Present and Future**– offered an opportunity to celebrate the important heritage of **Faith In Action** while also inspiring us to build connections and relationships with colleagues, neighbors in need, volunteers and policymakers in Washington D.C.

A special feature of the 2004 conference was The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's **Connect** project. **Connect** is an important initiative designed to assist our local programs in building stronger and more supportive relationships with our national policymakers. The Foundation provided consultants to work with us and to prepare us for effective meetings with our Senators and Representatives as part of our time at the national conference.

Judith Rice and Mary Sweet Rooney from Mishawka/South Bend met with Representative Chris Chocola. They presented a brief description of the Faith In Action program including a story about a client who is currently receiving services. They asked Representative Chocola for three things:

- A letter of support to show to perspective members of our coalition;
- A member of the Representative's local staff to serve on our advisory board;
- A visit by the Representative to one of the families we are serving.

All of the requests were granted very enthusiastically. " Renetta Williams and Peggy Hayes from HV of Fort Wayne also attended the conference.



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HMP Receives a \$7,000 Grant from Trinity Health

Health Ministry Partnership recently received a **\$7000** grant from Trinity Health to participate in a study to document the maintaining and promotion of independence among at-risk seniors. The goals of the program are as follows:

- Parish nurses will be educated to identify potential health and medical conditions that are “long-term care” risks to seniors.
- Conduct Interventions that promote health.
- Each parish nurse will care for a minimum of 10 individuals for three months to a year
- All interventions, outcomes and notes will be documented.
- The continued maintenance or improvement of the quality of life of those tracked will be demonstrated along with potential cost savings.

HEALTH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP CHURCH PROGRAMS

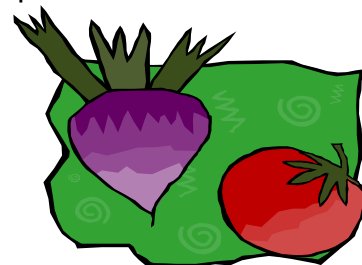
Our church programs are growing slowly but surely. At this time we have six churches that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Health Ministry Partnership to facilitate the provision of volunteer health ministries within each congregation. A nurse, either volunteer or paid, coordinates the services in each of the congregations. Churches that are partnering with us are:

- Queen of Peace in Mishawaka – 900 families
- Osceola United Methodist – 300 families
- Sacred Heart at Notre Dame – 1100 families
- Christ the King in South Bend – 1500 families
- River Valley Community Church in Mishawaka – 800 families
- Evangel Heights United Methodist Church in South Bend – 400 families.

Health Ministry Partnership provides the following services for each of the congregations:

- Training of volunteer nurses
- On-going education and support – one group meeting each month and one meeting with each individual nurse.
- Guidelines for services and forms for recording the services.
- Collection of data for reporting purposes
- CPR training, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, vision screenings, TB testing, Ministry to the Homebound classes
- Verification of RN licenses and an annual evaluation process for each church.

During the first three months of this year the volunteer nurse coordinators provided **679 hours** of service. Those nurses, in turn, coordinated the work of 53 additional volunteers who provided a total of **94 hours** of service. Mary Gallagher coordinates all the services provided to the churches. Mary plans to add two more congregations to our growing number this year. Additionally, Mary has developed a partnership with Indiana University at South Bend to offer a basic Parish Nurse Preparation Course.



Summer in the Garden

Health Ministry Partnership is facilitating a gardening project this summer with children from the Center for the Homeless as a way of promoting health through good nutrition. Saint Mary's College has given us the use of a plot of land for the project. Ten children between the ages of 9 and 12 are currently participating. All the planting is complete. We are now weeding, mulching, and watching the vegetables grow. All of the produce will be given to the Center for the Homeless as it matures.