

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*

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This issue features: St Joseph, Elkhart, and Marshall County, IN

Health Ministry Partnership

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Focus on School Health Ministry:

- ◆ HMP ensures that all state mandated screenings & requirements are followed. Those mandated screenings are done annually & include vision, hearing, & scoliosis.
- ◆ HMP is responsible for improving the immunization compliancy rate from 85% in 1999 to the current 98% for the school year 2001-2002.
- ◆ HMP is responsible for establishing a medication procedure that each school follows.
- ◆ HMP recently has started Individual Health Care Plans for all students that have asthma, diabetes, or seizures.

What is Health Ministry Partnership?

Health Ministry Partnership (HMP) is a collaborative project of HealthVisions Midwest and the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Inc.

Our mission is two-fold:

1. We provide nursing services & health education to parochial schools in St. Joseph, Marshall & Elkhart Counties.
2. We assist faith communities in establishing health ministries.

Our team:

- **Beth Clemans, RN, BSN** Beth's background includes Critical Care & ER Nursing, as well as school nurse functions in a residential program for emotionally disturbed children. Beth is the Registered Director of the Rainbows Program.
- **Eileen K. Dvorak, RN, MSN** Eileen has a rich background in Critical Care Nursing as a nursing instructor as well as years of hands-on care. Eileen is a member of the American Nurses Association & the National Association of School Nurses.
- **Mary C. Gallagher, RN, C, MA** Mary's background includes Medical-Surgical & Home Care Nursing along with Pastoral Care. Mary is a certified Home Health Nurse & Chaplain.
- **Mary Sweet Rooney, MA** Mary is the team leader for HMP and is a certified Chaplain. Her background includes teaching, Pastoral Care & Administration.

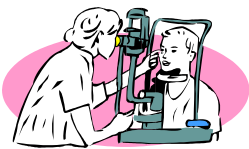
Rainbows Program

HMP became the home of the new Registered Director for the Rainbows Program.

The Rainbows program was developed 18 years ago & has since served 900,000 children internationally. The Rainbows program is for children ages 6-14 who have suffered the loss of a loved one to death or divorce. The Spectrum program is for high school kids & the Kaleidoscope program is for college age people. There is also an adult program, Prism.

Statistics from the 2000 Census show that 75% of families in the U.S. are blended families. Rainbows is a great program to help kids talk about their feelings surrounding the loss of a loved one.

In a recent poll conducted by Rainbows, parents noted changes in their children in the following areas: attitude/behavior, self-esteem, communication, cooperation at home, and academics.



**“This is the gold standard for glaucoma screening”
South Bend Ophthalmologist.**

Vision Screening and the FDT

As a result of an appeal from HMP, the Lions Club purchased a Humphrey FDT Visual Field Testing machine. The FDT (Frequency Doubler Technology) is used to prescreen people for glaucoma. The machine is stored at HMP. Members of the Lions Club, HMP volunteers and community volunteers will conduct screenings within a seven county area, at various health functions and special events.

The glaucoma test, takes approximately three minutes and results are available immediately. There is a four-hour training required to perform screenings with the machine. Health professionals, as well as other interested persons, are welcome to take the training. Mary Gallagher has been trained by Prevent Blindness Indiana to conduct these trainings. Clients with test results indicating the need for further evaluation are advised to see their eye care professional.

For example, at a health fair in November 2001, 59 adults were screened for distance acuity, near vision acuity, and glaucoma. Of those, 23 were referred for further evaluation. Three staff members of HMP, along with four volunteers, conducted the 4-hour screening.

Ministry to the Homebound

HMP is assisting local faith communities, by providing training for volunteers who visit the homebound. A series of three classes were offered 3 times in 2001 and will be offered again in 2002. The classes include sessions on the following areas:

- Listening skills
- Ingredients of a Helpful Visit
- How to Identify Abuse and Neglect
- Grief/Approaching Death
- Loneliness and Loss
- Spirituality of the caregiver
- Confidentiality

During the past year 79 people from 23 different churches took part in the classes.

One volunteer stated about the class:

“Reaffirms my belief of the necessity of being a good listener”

“...Everyone should truly participate that is involved in this area (homebound ministry)”

Churches interested in this ministry to the homebound can contact Health Ministry Partnership for further information.

Respite Care Program

The Respite Care program is new to HMP. In September of 2001 the current volunteer Respite Coordinator joined the HMP team.

The mission of The Respite Care Program is to provide short-term intervals of relief or rest for individuals and/or families who have full-time, round-the-clock care of a homebound disabled child or frail elderly adult.

The need for expanded respite care services is often articulated in church communities. A faith-based respite care program will help families in their vital work of caring for a homebound loved one.

HMP has received notification that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has approved a Grant of \$35,000 to support this program through June 2004. This grant will allow the existing program to be expanded to serve more churches and people. We are looking forward to the possibilities this program brings to HMP.

“The class was down to earth, easy to listen to and full of important information.”

(Class participant)



A faith-based respite care program will help families in their vital work of caring for a home-bound loved one.