

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*

Volume 2 Issue3: April 2002

This issue features: Lake, Starke County, IN and Chicago, IL



**"Shower
your Baby
With Love"**

Saturday

May 4, 2002

12noon - 3pm

**Ivy Tech State College
1440 East 35th Ave.
Gary, IN**

**For more information
call:
219-397-4335**

Prenatal Community Health Workers

HealthVisions Midwest is facilitating a new coalition of health and social agencies in Lake County to address the high rate of infant mortality in the county, and particularly in Gary.

Too many babies are dying in the neighborhoods of Lake County. They are born too small, too soon. In 2000, 36 black babies and 26 white babies died before they reached their first birthdays, and over 600 babies were born too small.

"Baby First...Right from the Start" is a campaign to educate expectant mothers and those who care about them on the need for early and regular prenatal care, combined with a healthy lifestyle. This program seeks to educate and employ community outreach workers who are indigenous to the local community, familiar with the subculture, and trusted as a source of information.

Through this coalition, these individuals will be educated at Ivy Tech Community College and employed by various agencies whose work focuses on prenatal care.

Lake County Lead Task Force

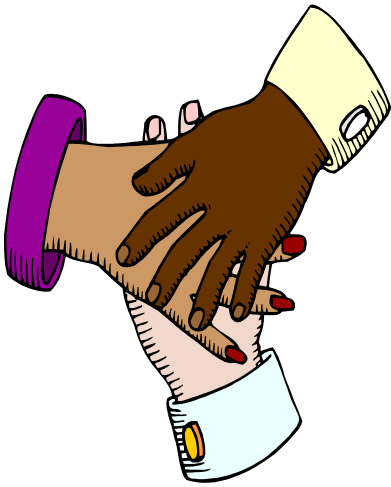
Janice White has joined the HVM team as Childcare Coordinator. She is working with childcare directors in over 300 centers in Lake County, delivering education programs on lead, child abuse, nutrition, playground safety, and other childhood health and education programs.

Since beginning this program in January she has trained 300 persons and given numerous education sessions to small and large groups of child care personnel.

Janice's work is funded by a grant received from Lake County Step Ahead, an organization dedicated to the health, education, and childcare needs of children in Lake County.

Janice is the mother of two children with a nurse background and has had experience in starting a childcare center for her church. She and her husband and family live in Crown Point. We are happy to have her as part of our team.

Chicago Partnership



The Daughters of Charity East/Central Province and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ are partnering with the Family Practice Wellness Center in Chicago to improve access to health education and health services in the service area of the Northwest Clinic. This area is midway between St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the old St. Ann's service area. On March 18, the two provincials signed an agreement to have HealthVisions Midwest and St. Joseph Services (a organization sponsored by the Daughters of Charity) to direct this project. They will hire a health educator and develop a "train-the-trainer" program for local people to assist patients in receiving health services. The population of this area is primarily Hispanic and African American.

This is a three-year grant from the two congregations to support this project. Sr. Mary Kay Tyrell, DC will be coordinating the project and HVM will be providing some of the education curriculum, staff support, grant expertise, and will be the fiscal agent. Look for news in the future on this exciting new project under the project name:

"Health Education for Life Program" HELP

Starke County- Living for Life

*"Living for Life"
A Partnership of
HealthVisions
Midwest and Starke
Memorial Hospital*

The mission of "Living For Life" is to provide education and prevention measures in the areas of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke in Starke County. The partnership with Starke Memorial Hospital conducts blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, with follow-up education for clients. They also have a goal of screening 300 residents to identify potential diabetes problems.

In addition to distributing brochures, radio spots and health fairs will be conducted to educate people about healthy lifestyles. These programs will be conducted in collaboration with local health and community agencies.

Grants and Money Matters

HVM was blessed to receive \$219,000 in grant revenue in 2001. This does not include grant revenue received from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation for our various Fort Wayne programs. We are hard at work to increase that amount by 10% in 2002.

HVM serves as a member of the Lake County Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Coalition and the Lake County Minority Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Coalition, and worked on and lead, respectively, the grant writing teams for these coalitions, which resulted in the coalitions receiving \$840,000 and \$1,080,000, respectively to fight tobacco addictions and promote tobacco prevention and cessation programs in Lake County. These grants will provide funding for programs in Lake County through 2003. We are pleased to be a part of these projects that are vital to the citizens of Lake County.



HEALTHVISIONS MIDWEST

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