

# 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: Lake and Starke County, IN

## Community Health Worker Program

The classes for the Community Health Worker program sponsored by HealthVisions Midwest, Ivy Tech Community College, and St. Catherine's hospital began in the fall semester. Students are taking Introduction to Human Services, Wellness, and Interpersonal communications. We are looking to educate and find positions for young women to work with the Baby First Program.

In the picture at left, LaToya Brown (far right), our CHW, who is working for the Baby First Program, is meeting with

Dr. Mary Taylor and Rosie Thomas from the Lake County Minority Health Coalition, and Sr. Annemarie (L-R). In addition to going to school, LaToya is working with young pregnant women in Gary helping them to get prenatal care and proper education in caring for a baby. This program is collaboration between the Indiana Perinatal Network, HVM, the Indiana State Dept. of Health, and LC Minority Health Coalition.



## Lead Safety Tips

- When refinishing furniture or stripping paint, be aware of the possible dangers of lead and use proper safety and cleanup measures and techniques
- When opening windows, clean out dust and paint chips with all-purpose cleaner.
- Eat foods high in iron, vitamin C and protein
- Wash children's hands and toys often to keep them from ingesting lead dust
- Have children 0-6 years screened for lead poisoning
- Make sure crayons are either made in America or meet ASTM standards
- Replace all older vinyl mini-blinds. They may contain high amounts of lead.

## Lake County Lead Task Force

For a year we have been meeting and working in Lake County to reduce the threat of childhood lead poisoning. Through the work of the education committee, information has been distributed to physician offices, food pantries, libraries, grocery stores, schools, churches, and at numerous health fairs. We now have a speaker's bureau of trained volunteers who are ready to give presentations to general audiences, children, homebuilders, and social agencies. We have received grant funding from Lake County Step Ahead to hire a coordinator who will organize educational training for all childcare directors in Lake County. To celebrate Lead Awareness month we hosted a lead awareness program on the local cable station Channel 16. However, there's still more to be done!

We are presently working on a project to screen 3,000 children in Lake County by collaborating with the city and county health departments. To aid us in this effort, we have secured two grants, one from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), and the other from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Interim Controls committee is preparing videos for builders home improvement stores, along with materials for families to educate them about removing lead from their homes.

## **STATE-WIDE AWARD!**

*HVM received the  
Lead-Safe Indiana Award  
for leadership and  
innovative work in  
community activism and  
coalition building in  
childhood lead poisoning  
in Allen and Lake  
counties, in Indiana.  
The award was given at  
the Lead-Safe Indiana  
Conference, Nov. 8, 2001  
in  
Indianapolis, IN*

### **MOTTEP**

#### **FUNDRAISER!**

MOTTEP honored the tenth anniversary of National MOTTEP, with a gala dinner/dance,

### **The Emerald Gala**

*“Give Life—Give Thanks”*

on November 3, 2001, at the Dynasty Banquet and Conference Center in Hammond, Indiana. Guests received gifts bags provided by Ruby sponsor Fujisawa Corp. During the program, guests heard inspiring stories from organ recipients, donor families, organ donors, and those waiting to receive transplants.



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## **Starke County- Living for Life**

HealthVisions has begun a new venture in Starke County, Indiana. In collaboration with Starke Memorial Hospital in Knox the “Living for Life” program had its kick-off in October.

The goal of this program is to promote health and wellness and reduce health disparities in Starke County.

After a community health survey, cardiovascular disease was identified as one of the leading causes of illness in the county. This new program will provide outreach programs to the community. Partnerships will be established with local churches and community centers to provide exercise and nutrition programs.

Leslie Madsen has been hired to coordinate the project. This partnership will also provide new opportunities and other collaborators to aid in our goal of keeping our communities healthy.

## **Grants and Money Matters**

HVM has received a number of grants to support our work with the Lake County Lead Task Force.

- EPA awarded a grant for \$15,000 for lead screening of children in high risk areas in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond
- The Centers for Disease Control awarded a grant for \$27,000. Lead projects in Allen and Lake Counties will each receive \$13,500 for lead screening.
- Lake County Step Ahead awarded a grant for \$30,000 to hire a coordinator/educator to develop workshops in health, nutrition, and lead education for childcare directors in Lake County.

HVM has been selected as the fiscal agent for several projects:

- We are managing the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), an organization dedicated to educating minorities about organ and tissue transplants, and living healthy lifestyles.
- HVM will also manage a Maternal and Child Health grant from the Indiana State Department of Health for the Lake County Minority Health Coalition.

We are happy to partner with these dedicated health organizations.

## **Board Plans Strategies for Next Three Years**

HealthVisions Board and Provincial Leadership met on September 28 to develop strategies for the next 3 years. Three key areas, with objectives, were discussed:

1. Sustainability
  - Increase grant funding
  - Evaluate programs for sustainability
  - Improving external communication
  - Seek partners with additional resources
2. Geographic Focus
  - Areas served by PHJC's will continue to be the main focus for expansion.
  - HVM will remain open and available to other calls.
2. PHJC Ministry
  - Continue to find links to existing services
  - Be a resource to other PHJC ministries