

# 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*

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This issue features: *HealthVisions Midwest –Lake County, IN*  
*Chicago Health Collaborative - Chicago, IL*  
*Living 4 Life - Starke County, IN*



## Rolling out the Red carpet for...

Clementine DuBose – has joined HealthVisions Midwest as Director of the Maternal Child Network. She is directing three sites where community health workers (CHW) and coordinators are working to aid pregnant women in Gary in receiving prenatal medical care.

### Welcome

If you hear a different voice when you call HealthVisions you will be talking to Jennifer Stevens, a new member of our staff. Jennifer lives in Hammond with her husband Adam and two year old daughter Madi. Her mother is German and Jennifer lived in Germany for a time when she was a child. So when our foreign visitors come we have a capable German translator at HVM.

\*Yekensia Willis and Christina Collins, CHW's, join Shirley Borom, RN and Prenatal Care Coordinator and LaToya Brown, CHW, working in the NATALE Program at Lake County Minority Health Coalition.

\*Phyllis Pinkins, CHW, is assigned to the Gary Health Department's Maternal Child Health Program, working with Ida Parker, RN and Deputy Director.

\*NaShonda Stewart and Traci Jones, CHW's, join Jancie White, LPN and Prenatal Care Coordinator, at Great Beginnings, located at Sojourner Truth House.

This program is being sponsored by a grant from the Indiana Dept. of Health, Office of Maternal Child Health. We hope to have 300 pregnant women enrolled in our program by the end of the year.

## Living 4 Life (Starke County)

Gina Minx is the new Living 4 Life coordinator. Gina is a Medical Assistant who has worked for several years at a local physician's office. Gina's first project is an educational program being offered in Starke County this spring. The focus of the program will be "living a healthy lifestyle". The program will be approximately 10 weeks long and will include weekly educational sessions. Each session will include a 30-minute lecture topic, the nutrition tip of the week, a weekly healthy recipe, and an exercise tip of the week. We will also offer weekly "weigh in" and track the amount of weight lost by different organizations and/or groups in the community. The local radio station will join us in sponsoring this event.

Donna Hagan presented a series of six educational sessions focusing on improving employee health through diet and exercise to MPI employees. MPI is also paying for cholesterol screenings for employees.

Living 4 Life was awarded a grant from the local tobacco dollars. The final dollar amount has not been released yet, but we will be moving forward with our plans for the smoking cessation program and support group.

### Katherine Kasper's Feast Day February 1

Foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ has inspired many throughout the world as they minister with an attentive ear and a courageous heart.



## Great Beginnings

Sojourner Truth is the new site of “Great Beginnings” dedicated to serving pregnant women in Gary. The focus of this work is to help young women receive early prenatal care. In addition, the staff aids them in securing other services they may need for their families.

Janice White, who led the childcare lead poisoning education program, is the coordinator at Great Beginnings.

We are happy to be able to collaborate with Sojourner Truth in their ministry to needy women and children.



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



## Lake County Healthy Homes

The Lead Task Force, after a successful year, has decided to broaden its focus to include Healthy Home issues. The goal is to educate families of Lake County about the health risks they face at home, and how to prevent them. Special emphasis will be on the dangers of lead, mold, pesticides and how to decrease the exposure to allergens and irritants associated with asthma. The committee is in the process of researching statistics concerning Healthy Home issues in Indiana. Strategies and action plans are being developed to meet this goal. The task force also hopes to partner with agencies that are already dealing with these environmental issues.

Each year, accidents in the home hurt over six and a half million people. Find out what you need to do to make your home safe for your family and the environment.

For more information about the  
Lake County Healthy Homes project  
Contact 219-397-4335

## Chicago Health Collaborative

The partnership with the Daughters of Charity and PrimeCare Community Health Clinic has a newly renovated classroom and office in the PrimeCare Northwest Clinic. Nayda Rodriguez, the health educator has begun her work providing services to the clients of the clinic. Feb 1 was her first health fair at Iglesia de Dios, Mizpa on Damen Ave in Chicago. Free examinations and education were given for diabetes, cholesterol, nutrition, stress, high blood pressure, lead poisoning, and anger management.

The partnership has written a mission, vision and value statement and is in the process of developing a marketing plan.

Discussion is in process with Catholic Charities as a potential partner. We would be able to assist them with health fairs and clinic services to their clients and they could provide immigration service, and access to food pantries and other social services for the patients of the clinic.