

HealthVisions Update

*HealthVisions Midwest, Inc.—Lake County, IN
Health Ministry – St. Joseph, Marshall, Elkhart County, IN
HealthVisions Fort Wayne—Allen County, IN
Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, IN
HealthVisions East St. Louis, IL*

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This issue features: HealthVisions Midwest



We have a new logo for this year as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. During 2008 we hope to celebrate in a variety of ways. Since we are located in a number of locations the celebrations will take various forms. It is our hope to celebrate with those we serve by providing exemplary service and sharing the values and spirit of Catherine Kasper. In the coming months, you will receive emails with information about the work of HealthVisions throughout these past ten years. We hope through a little bit of trivia you will see how the work of Catherine Kasper continues to grow and help those in need.



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HealthVisions Midwest Celebrates

Healthcare has always been a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. In 1998 HealthVisions Midwest (HVM) was established as a "refounding of the healthcare ministry" in that it was a return to the historical roots to focus on basic community health, just as our foundress, the Blessed Mary Catherine Kasper, did in Dernbach, Germany, in the mid-1800s. HealthVisions' improvement activities are primarily targeted for those who are underserved and lack social and financial resources.



Essential to accomplishing HealthVision's mission are partnerships with local community groups to develop opportunities and provide education to improve health at the community level. Through a variety of ways we hope to empower people in the neighborhood to help resolve their own health issues.

In August 1998 the first employees were hired and on November 4, 1998 the Articles of Incorporation were approved. The first office site was Ancilla Systems in Hobart. December 1998 HVM moved to the present site at 4522 Indianapolis Blvd. in East Chicago, IN.

Don Barnes CEO, Angie Martin administrative assistant and Sr. Annemarie Kampwerth director of mission and education were the first employees. Soon after Melissa Piazza joined as director of finances. As of this year, HealthVisions Midwest has 32 dedicated employees and over 100 partners serving East St. Louis, Illinois and the Indiana counties of Lake, Starke, LaPorte, Allen, Porter, St. Joseph, Marshall and Elkhart.

Working Together for Your Good Health

DID YOU KNOW?

The original name for HealthVisions Midwest was “Midwest Institute for Health Improvement”. The name was changed before the articles of incorporation were filed in November 1998.



In 1999, HVM provided support and oversight to the community health programs of the hospitals of Ancilla Systems.



In 2000, HVM began talks with Starke Memorial Hospital in Knox to provide health and wellness programs in the county and reduce health disparities.



On November 8, 2001 HVM received the "Lead-Safe Indiana" award for leadership and innovative work in community activism and coalition building to prevent child lead poisoning in Lake and Allen Counties.



In 2002, HealthVisions Fort Wayne received a “Faith in Action” grant from Robert Wood Johnson to provide supportive services to the homebound, frail and elderly.



In 2003, the Maternal Child Health Network was formed in Lake County with three offices in Gary and one in East Chicago. In each location, a nurse and community health workers provide health education and access to health care for the at-risk pregnant women.



“Health from the Garden” a garden program for children was established in 2004 at the Fort Wayne, Gary, South Bend and East Chicago locations.



HealthVisions East St. Louis dedicated its new office on June 13, 2005 offering non-medical services to the elderly and homebound.



In 2006, HVM joined St. Joseph Medical Center, South Bend in sponsoring a medical mobile unit servicing some of the underserved areas in St. Joseph and Marshal Counties.



2007 was the year HVM received its first federal grant to provide health education, medical interpretation and access to social services for the Latino population in Lake County.



Don Barnes, President and CEO of HealthVisions Midwest in the past ten years has successfully built this new ministry and developed it into a significant partner in the community serving the underserved. His vision and gift of enabling his co-workers has led to much of the success. He would be the first to give credit for the success of HVM to all those who work in the organization. Don is very mission oriented and understands the values and charism of Catherine Kasper. He truly tries to work with an “attentive ear and a courageous heart”.



Don Barnes CEO/President