

HealthVisions Update

HealthVisions Midwest, Inc.—Lake County, IN
Health Ministry Partnership—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: Maternal Child Health Network,
HealthVisions Midwest Lake County, IN

Served 3200 Women and Families

Since the beginning of the Maternal Child Health Network in 2003 we have helped about 3200 pregnant women access healthcare during their pregnancy.

This year, the Network reached the goal of enrolling 440 women, 85% of which were in the first trimester of pregnancy. Less than 3% of the women who delivered had preterm labor or low birth weight babies and these women showed an increase of breast feeding upon leaving the hospital after giving birth. Only two of the women met the criteria for obesity. We were cited by the State of Indiana for having the lowest number of pregnant women who smoked.

We have also found that 18% of infant deaths occurred because of inappropriate sleeping conditions. This information was used to write a grant to provide cribs for babies that do not have a safe place to sleep. We partnered with the Baby Store to increase the value of this grant. For a minimum price they supply us with cribs, bassinets, booster seats, and car seats.

(See next page first column)

CDC Grant

In May of this year HealthVisions Midwest submitted a grant to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for the “Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) U.S. program,” a national federal grant program. The grant application required many hours of hard work from our staff members and they all did an excellent job of working under pressure and time constraints.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we announce that HealthVisions Midwest was awarded federal grant funding in the amount of **\$415,000 per year with possible renewal for five years for Lake County, IN**. The focus of the grant will be to provide health education, medical interpretation and access to social services to the growing Hispanic/Latino population in Lake County.

When speaking with the CDC they indicated that a total of 179 applications were submitted. Funding will be awarded to approximately 18 Centers for Excellence in the Eliminations of Disparities (CEEDS) at \$1 million each and approximately 22 Action Communities (AC) at an average of \$400,000 each. HealthVisions Midwest applied under the AC classification and was awarded the maximum amount. Also to be noted is that the grant application was rated as having many strengths and was well received by the CDC funding panelists.

HealthVisions will be implementing this program in the next several years and witnessing the many benefits it will bring to the residents of Lake County, Indiana. Raquel Castro is the program manager. She recently served as the Pre-natal Care coordinator for HVM’s Promotores de Salud program in East Chicago.



Sr. Stephen Brueggeman Fund

Prenatal and nutrition education are key elements to the success of having a healthy baby. Our CHW's and Prenatal Coordinators seek out these women in their own neighborhoods. They visit the women at their homes accompany them to the doctor, hospital and other social agencies. They help them find cribs, food and other needed items for their families.

We have four sites, three in Gary and one in East Chicago, where women can receive help. We will be increasing our services with the added funds received through our new CDC grant.



Dominga first came to our program in crisis. Her partner had walked out on her, leaving her with no money, no food, and no way to pay for her rent and utilities or to pay her doctor. Her son was 3 yrs. old and she was pregnant with her second child. She was 7 1/2 months along in her pregnancy.



Sr. Stephen has resigned from the HealthVisions board after serving on the board since the inception of HealthVisions Midwest.

Sr. Stephen was on the design team and development of this organization. It was through her vision and those who worked

with her that this new health ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ was instituted.

Through the years, she has challenged and commended us as we grew and continued to find ways to spread the charism of Catherine Kasper by serving the health needs of the underserved.

In recognition for this great service, we are establishing a "Sister Stephen Brueggeman Fund". This fund will be dedicated to serving emergency needs of the most needy that we serve or short-term program needs not supported elsewhere. Often times we have people who do not have a crib for their baby or clothes or money for their electric bill. This fund will provide some of these needy items. This fund will help those most in need, as Catherine Kasper did in her community of Dernbach.



Her private doctor no longer wanted to take care of her since she was unable to pay. Upon her arrival to Promotores de Salud, we helped her get a doctor so that she would be able to receive comprehensive care. Other areas in which we assisted her were: counseling, mental health referral, Medicaid, Head Start, food pantry, Salvation Army, job placement, immigration, ESL, computer classes, G.E.D., childcare, clothing, utilities assistance, obtaining child support, interpreting, translating, advocating & transportation just to name a few! Recently we received this letter



"Queridas Amigas,
Thank you for all you've done for me and my children.
Without you, I don't know if I could have gone on.
I have never known of a place that provides so much assistance and support.
I'll never be able to thank you enough".

Love,
Dominga



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