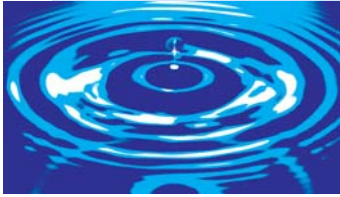


HealthVisions Update

*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
Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, IN
HealthVisions East St. Louis, IL*

Volume 6 Issue 3: December 2006

This issue features: HealthVisions East St. Louis



HealthVisions East St. Louis Receives Grants

HealthVisions East St. Louis

MISSION:

Inspired by the compassion of Jesus and the example of Blessed Catherine Kasper, HealthVisions East St. Louis strives to empower the people of East St. Louis to live healthier lives. This will be accomplished through faith-based, collaborative services that meet current and emerging needs.

GOALS

- * Empower faith-based organizations to identify their talents and gifts and use them to provide or improve services.
- * Develop and facilitate partnerships with faith communities and other health and social organizations.
- * Provide advocacy and non-medical support services to the elderly, poor and disabled.
- * Promote wholistic health.
- * Address systemic community health needs.
- * Identify and secure funding and resources.



Manuel Hunt a care receiver



Since 2005, HealthVisions East St. Louis/Faith in Action to Serve and Transform (FAST) has continued to do God's work in East St. Louis. FAST has served more than 70 seniors and disabled persons. More than 90 volunteers have provided almost 2,000 volunteer hours to the seniors and disabled persons. Thanks to recent grants, FAST is expanding its services. The Daughters of Charity Foundation grant of \$15,000 will provide case management and transportation services to seniors age 65 and older. FAST will use volunteers and students to assist with these services, and will provide stipends to them. The goal of the project is to help seniors remain safe in their home by:

- Linking seniors to emergency monitoring safety programs such as Lifeline and R U OK (are you ok)
- Facilitating home repairs and building ramps
- Linking seniors to medical, financial, food, adult day care, homemaker and volunteer care giving resources
- Providing home visits to assessing needs and advocacy services

The \$4,000 grant from the Incarnate Word Foundation will allow the ministry to continue its mission of non-medical supportive services in the community.

"I enjoyed the ride"

FAST provided its first transportation service on 12/5/06 to a senior who needed to go to the foot doctor. Ms Reed said "I enjoyed the ride." Volunteer Mary Houston of Shining Light Church provided the ride. Ironically, Ms. Houston knew Ms. Reed when Ms. Houston was a little girl attending the grade school across the street from Ms. Reed. FAST staff did not know this, but God did when Ms Houston agreed to provide the transportation. The two shared many memories about old times during the ride.



Ms. Reed and Ms. Houston



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Paula Wills



DEDICATED STAFF

FAST is collaborating with AARP and Earnfare programs to expand its volunteer base. AARP and Earnfare will pay for workers who participate in training at FAST. The volunteer trainees will perform clerical duties,

as well as yard work, home maintenance, and case management training. The first volunteer trainee from AARP is Stephanie Small who is providing clerical support. She is doing a great job! Stephanie joins Paula Wills and Carol Toller, as staff at HealthVisions East St. Louis.



Carol (Phiffer) Toller



Stephanie Small

"Singing for Seniors" Gospel Extravaganza

FAST will hold its first fundraiser, "Singing for Seniors" Gospel Extravaganza on December 16, 2006. Several local gospel groups will perform. Volunteers and caregivers will also be recognized at the event. Some of the care receivers will be transported by limousine services. FAST care receivers and volunteers will receive gifts of appreciation for their work.

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