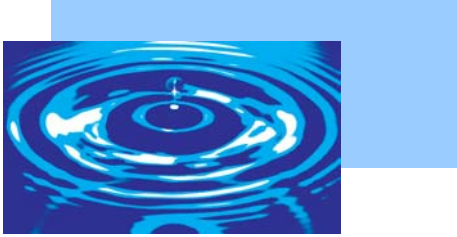


HealthVisions Update

*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 5 Issue 2: August 2005

This issue features: HealthVisions East St. Louis



HealthVisions East St. Louis

Welcome to HealthVisions East St. Louis, IL.

Building Healthy Lives Together

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.

HealthVisions East St. Louis a new ministry of HealthVisions Midwest, which is sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, dedicated its new office located at 4601 State Street Suite 220, East St. Louis, IL. on June 13, 2005. The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ formerly owned St. Mary's Hospital for more than 100 years and wanted to maintain a presence in the community and collaborate with other health care, social service agencies and faith-based organizations to meet unmet needs in the community.

The dedication ceremony included a proclamation from The Honorable Mayor Carl E. Officer, in honor of Sister Mary Peter Altgilbers, a Poor Handmaid who worked at St. Mary's Hospital for 17 years. Sister Peter was known to encourage the staff to keep their focus on the mission of God and the Poor Handmaids in their work. This new ministry would not have happened if not for the Sisters loyalty to the people of East St. Louis. We salute Sister Peter and the Poor Handmaids for their loyalty, dedication and generosity in sponsoring this new ministry for our city. The conference room was dedicated to Sister Mary Peter. Several representatives from the community were on hand for the dedication.

STAFF: Paula Wills, Director and Carol Phiffer, Project Coordinator



Paula E. Wills and friends

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All profits will benefit the
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A neighbor's independence depends on you!

The first ministry of HealthVisions East St. Louis is *Faith in Action to Serve and Transform* (FAST). FAST will provide volunteer care giving services to the elderly and disabled in their homes. The services will include transportation, errands, friendly visits, telephone reassurance, information and referral, light housekeeping, personal care, yard work and ramp installation. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently awarded a Faith in Action grant to FAST for \$35,000 as part of the Foundations commitment to expand its national interfaith volunteer care giving program which helps those with long term health needs. Faith in Action grants are awarded to groups representing many faiths that volunteer to work together to care for their neighbor. There are eight churches working with FAST. Galilee Central Baptist Church, Mitchell Tabernacle Christian, Methodist Episcopal Church, Pilgrim Rest Missionary, Baptist Church, Shiloh African Methodist, Episcopal Church, Southern Mission Missionary Baptist Church, Straightway-Baptist Church, Summit Avenue Baptist Church and Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church.

Who Can Receive Services?

Persons who are elderly, frail, or disabled and who need assistance with remaining in their home can receive non-medical supportive services.

Who Provides Care?

Trained volunteers from area congregations and organizations provide care-giving services.

There is NO COST for services but "FAST" does accept donations.

For further information contact:

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Sponsored by the
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
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