

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

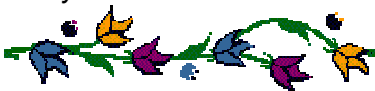
Volume 3 Issue3: July 2003

This issue features: *Health Ministry Partnership*
St. Joseph, Marshall, Elkhart County, IN

Thank You Sharon

We are saddened to say good-bye to Sharon Burnside who will be leaving her position as services coordinator for the Faith In Action Respite Care Program on July 1, 2003. Sharon has provided excellent leadership for the program for sixteen months. Some of her many accomplishments:

- *Served over 125 families
- *Recruited 28 volunteers who provided an average of 150 hours of service each month.
- * Raised \$11,000 in funds to support the program.
- *Gave presentations throughout the community.
- *Created manuals for board members,
- *Revised the training manuals for new volunteers,
- *Created quarterly newsletters, and a new program brochure,
Sharon was deeply committed to the program and she will be sorely missed!



Rainbows Program

The Rainbows program has completed another great year! We had 5 sites and more than 60 children in the program. Seventy-two percent of the children have lost a parent due to divorce, and 18% are in the program because they have lost a parent due to death. There are 15 wonderful facilitators that volunteer their time each week to listen to, and counsel these children who are grieving.

At the end of the year, parents and teachers of the children involved in the Rainbows program were surveyed, and we found that:

- 63% of the parents said they saw an increase in the communication within the family after their child was in the Rainbows program.
- 56% of the parents said they saw an increase in their child's self-esteem and attitude after participation in the Rainbows program.
- 60% of the teachers said they saw an improvement in their student's self-esteem after participation in the Rainbows program.

Clearly the Rainbows program is making a difference in children's lives. We hope to expand the program even more next year. If you would like more information, please call Beth Clemans at 574-254-0454, X.202

Faithful Lives Celebration \$\$\$\$\$

In the last newsletter featuring Health Ministry Partnership we shared that our school programs were to be the beneficiaries of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's annual "Faithful Lives Celebration". We are happy to report that **\$110,000** was raised in support of our school programs. These dollars will be distributed over a period of five years. Health Ministry Partnership along with our Steering Committee will make the decisions regarding the best use of this generous gift.



HMP staff promptly organized a training session for ourselves so as to be qualified to conduct the screenings.

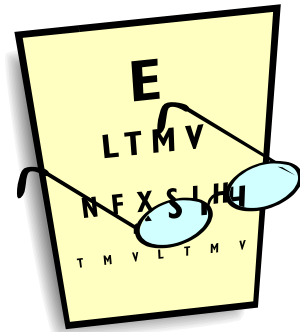
We then recruited and trained a small group of volunteers to assist us with the hearing screenings. Once we coordinated the scheduling with the schools we were off and running with our new responsibility! By the end of the school year we screened nearly 3000 students!

School Health Update

The school programs for Health Ministry Partnership were faced with a great challenge this past year. The Saint Joseph County Health Department announced that they would no longer be able to conduct the hearing screenings in the Catholic schools. Health Ministry Partnership will now be responsible for the hearing screenings. These screenings are mandatory each year for children in the 1st, 4th, and 7th grades.



Sponsored by the
Poor Handmaids of
Jesus Christ
Visit our website:
www.hvusa.org



Blood Pressure and Vision Screenings

Health Ministry Partnership conducts monthly blood pressure screenings at the senior luncheons at five area churches. Once each year we also conduct vision screening at those same sites. We screen near vision and distance vision, as well as for glaucoma. Participants often share success stories. Here are two recent ones:

- One year ago a female client at one of the senior luncheons had a blood pressure of 180/90. She also complained of shoulder pain. She was strongly encouraged to see her physician as soon as possible. A follow up phone call was made to her, and again she was encouraged to see her physician as soon as possible. Just recently we saw her at a senior luncheon and she informed us that as a result of our intervention she did go to her physician, and found that she needed to have quintuple by-pass surgery. She now has a new lease on life!
- Another client told us he recently had very successful cataract surgery because we sent him to have an eye exam at an eye care professional. He had a distance vision of 20/60 in both eyes, and near vision of 20/70 in both eyes, when tested before surgery at a vision screening conducted by HMP at a west side church.

It is very gratifying to know that the work we do makes a difference in the lives of the persons that we serve.