

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

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This issue features: HealthVisions Fort Wayne, IN
2135 S. Hanna St. Fort Wayne, IN 46803



Sr. Loretta Schleper, PHJC, worked with HVFW and initiated the Health Improvement Councils and other outreach activities.



Joan Baines, Staff and Renetta Williams, Director of HealthVisions Fort Wayne.

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NEW HOME OF HEALTHVISIONS FORT WAYNE



On September 28, 2005 HealthVisions of Fort Wayne celebrated its new space with an open house, blessing and special recognition to Sister Loretta Schleper. The event was attended by the Provincial, Sr. Nora Hahn, Donald Barnes, President and CEO of HealthVisions Midwest, Inc., members of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, the City of Fort Wayne Mayor's Office, the Fort Wayne Urban League, local ministers, and community leaders and partners. The conference room of HealthVisions' new space was dedicated to Sister Loretta Schleper for her leadership and service to the poor and underserved community and to Fort Wayne citizens.

HealthVisions partnership with the Fort Wayne Urban League started over a year and a half ago when the Fort Wayne Urban League decided to move its location closer to the people they serve. The mission of the Fort Wayne Urban League is to enable African Americans and others, to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights. HealthVisions of Fort Wayne and the Fort Wayne Urban League collaborated together to close the gap of health disparity in the African America community, which is a key component of both organizations. The building is located in the heart of the inner city where vacant, over-grown lots and dilapidated houses were replaced with three new beautiful brick buildings, developed in a campus setting. The New Pontiac Brach Library, The Fort Wayne Urban League and the Community Action of Northeast Indiana (CANI) Head Start are all housed in the complex. It is our hope that this new campus will pave the way for further developments in the inner city and additional services to an underserved part of the community.

Health Disparity

Coalition has a vital role in the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) located in the inner city. The Health Disparity Coalition is facilitated by HealthVisions Fort Wayne. The mission of the coalition is to eliminate health disparities in Allen County. We have over 30 members, including executives, CEO'S, and grassroots organizations. We have had some major accomplishments, such as the completion of the Needs Assessment for Allen County. The Coalition approved the next step, to hire a consultant to do complete assessments. Indiana University/Purdue University-Fort Wayne secured a (3)-year, \$270,000 federal grant to run an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at the Lafayette Medical Center to develop healthcare careers for minority students. IPFW will also offer classes at the Lafayette Medical Center. They will also use their students to do dental care.



Fort Wayne African American Cancer Alliance

16th United States Surgeon General Builds “Bridges” in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne African American Cancer Alliance (FWAACA) held its Inaugural Annual Luncheon, “Bridges to a Healthier Community”, on Wednesday March 9, 2005, at the Marriott Marquis Ballroom with almost 300 in attendance. The keynote speaker, David Satcher, M.D., PhD, delivered a dynamic message on cancer awareness and disparities. Dr. Satcher completed his four-year term as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in February 2002. Currently, Dr. Satcher serves as President, Morehouse School of Medicine and Director/Principle Investigator for National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (NBLIC).

Faith in Action Program

Peggy Hayes, coordinator, is working on the annual fund raising project, Valentine Prayer Breakfast. She is seeking sponsorships from SAM's Club and other partners. This year *Faith in Action* selected four families from the community to be adopted by the Fort Wayne Christmas Bureau. We are in the process of collaborating with the Council on Aging to develop a partnership to select 30 seniors in the Central and Southeast area of Fort Wayne to provide non-medical supportive services.



Vital information:

Total volunteer hours since inception, 2002: 1750

Total clients served since inception of program 2002: 549

Total volunteer hours for the quarter: 77

Number of volunteers: 56

New volunteers: 5

Care Receivers: 33

Community Projects: Planning a workshop with Home Depot on “Tool Time for Women”. We will also do a lawn care project, raking leaves, with youth.



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