

HealthVisions Update

*HealthVisions Midwest, Inc.—Lake County, IN
HealthVisions Fort Wayne—Allen County, IN
Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, IN
HealthVisions East St. Louis,*

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EAST ST. LOUIS FAST

has so many stories of how the services provided impact to the lives of seniors. One senior who is 83 years old, was living in a rental property with a younger man. The gentleman used to keep the senior up at night making various noises, leaving the door unlocked and having periodic psychotic breakdowns.

On more than one occasion the senior had to coordinate getting the man hospitalized. **FAST** case managers helped him complete an application for Touchette Elderly Apartments. When he was approved, the senior learned that he had a \$200 utility bill that had to be paid before he could move in. **FAST** referred him to several agencies and received approval from Catholic Urban Programs to pay the bill. The senior was so excited about the move. We visited him soon after he moved in and the first thing he said was that he was finally able to get a good night's sleep. →



HealthVisions of Fort Wayne,

located on the lower level of the Fort Wayne Urban League Building, shares the space with a local college. Students that attend this college are mostly underserved and economically disadvantaged. The HVFW team has the reputation of being faith based and mentoring those who have lost hope, especially young women.

Recently the college had an incident where one of the students stole another student's purse and removed the cash. The entire action was caught on camera. When the student who stole the purse was confronted, she denied the incident. She was told that the building video camera showed her taking the money from the purse and placing it in her pocket. The student that stole the money was distressed because she had stolen, lied, lost the trust of the school and her fellow student. She had lost hope.

The student whose purse was stolen did not file charges but a promissory note was signed by the other student to pay the money back in 2 months. The School developed a plan to keep the student in school and a referral was made to **HealthVisions of Fort Wayne**. The student has been assigned to our community health worker to provide ongoing services using the Community Health Care model. This is a true example that you never know who is watching as you carry out the values and beliefs of this PHJC organization. This confirmed that we need to keep praying and planting the seed of hope.



Hannah and one of her friends also bought the senior some items for his apartment. He is so thankful for all the help that **FAST** did to get him into the apartment.

Heaven Sent

At **Great Beginnings** we serve a special type of demographics. Over 30% of our clients are indigent, transient, and/or homeless. Often it is difficult for them to be compliant to our request for referrals due to lack of transportation, lack of phone and having to rely on correspondence through mail.

This particular client was in need of just about everything an expectant mother would be in need of, including maternity clothes and shoes. She had housing, water and electricity; however there was absolutely nothing in her home except a few cans of food. Nurse Jackson, the nurse coordinator for our program was diligent in addressing each of the immediate needs of this client. She began with referring the client to Sojourner Truth House in Gary. There, she was able to receive clothing, shoes and household items. This action began the process of hope. Her demeanor began to improve instantly. Then she was referred to Gabriel House in Gary. This was absolutely: "Heaven Sent". Gabriel House provided the client with baby clothing, bath tub, stroller, car seat, baby bed and other household items. She was also referred to Indiana Food Bank in Gary and receives nutritional food monthly.

This case stands out for us at **Great Beginnings** because it exemplifies how compliance with our directions can be empowering not because of us, but, because of the wonderful agencies we network with here in Gary that hold the same mission of serving God's people.

Mommy & Me Support Group

Recently a new mom from the **Aicance** "Mommy & Me" Support Group stated "She feels very grateful for our program and all of the knowledge that she has obtained from our classes." She says that she feels happy about the services and information we provide and it has helped her find the resources needed for her and her family. Our class has inspired her to have a happy, healthy, pregnancy and she recommends our classes to new moms, and friends that have children.

Mom Gives Back To Program

Rocio a 33 year old married mom of four was enrolled in **Promotores** with her last two pregnancies. She sought prenatal care and prenatal care coordination in the first trimester. Compliance was never an issue with this mom. She took responsibility in keeping all prenatal appointments, WIC appointments, reassessments and follow ups, as well as all educational classes offered at our agency. Financial responsibility was also taken when it came to Doctor and hospital bills.

Promotores helped Rocio as much as possible with her two pregnancies. Diapers, baby clothes, and a pack and play were given. Back in August 2011 her husband was terminated at work due to illegal status. Rocio came to us for help with diapers. We gave her three packs of diapers to help her for a couple of weeks. In September 2011 Rocio came to the office with six packs of diapers. She stated that her husband was fortunate in finding another job with a higher income than the first one. Since she was able to buy diapers, she wanted to give back to Promotores.

At this time Rocio and her husband are working on legalizing their residency. They are very involved in their children's education. She is also working on English as a second language.

Over the years Rocio has given our program gently used baby clothing. She has also brought in food that she has received to share with other families.

Her great success in breastfeeding has helped to inspire some of the other moms in breastfeeding. Rocio has attended our breastfeeding classes and has shared her experiences with the other soon to be moms. We at **Promotores** applaud Rocio for her hard work and her caring heart.



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