

HealthVisions Update

HealthVisions Midwest, Inc.—Lake County, IN
HealthVisions Fort Wayne—Allen County, IN
HealthVisions East St. Louis, IL

Sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

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Mission in Action

In the past year, we have been able to minister to people who worked at St. Mary's Hospital and help them get transportation to the doctor. Ironically, all of them are nurses with life threatening illnesses. Two of them have cancer and one has respiratory illness and is on oxygen. This week, I called someone that I had not spoken to in years only to find out that she was in Barnes Hospital with liver disease. Yes, she too worked at St. Mary's Hospital as a nurse. That day she needed to "hear a friendly voice." God blessed me to be that voice. I have since been able to put her in touch with other friendly voices who worked with her at St. Mary's and they are calling her and ministering to her.

Today she called to see about transportation. She lives in an area that we don't serve so I referred her to Tri-Cities Faith in Action which happens to have a director that use to volunteer for HVESL while a MSW student. I told her that if there are weeks when they can't take the person to St. Louis for treatment to call us and we will help. This gives us a chance to give back to those who worked in our ministry at St. Mary's.

Mission Alive in East St. Louis



This is Volunteer Johnnie Conrad (on the right) with her care receiver, Ms. Flora Baker who is 97 years old. Ms. Conrad has been visiting her since 2006. Ms. Baker is one of our first seniors and Ms. Conrad is one of our first volunteers. It is a beautiful relationship.



A couple of weeks ago, I received a call from a senior who said someone put my name in her mailbox to call and she did not know why. She did not know me or anything about the services we provide. I explained to her our mission and the services we provide. She was very interested in the transportation services but was only 59 years old. She told me she had missed appointments because of lack of transportation and uses a walker so she can't use public transportation. After further discussion, I learned that, based on her income, she was eligible for a medical card through the Department of Human Services that could get her to the doctors. So I encouraged her to call them and let them know that she is eligible for a QMB card and a regular medical card. I also told her that as soon as she turns 60 to give us a call.

She called me to let me know that she received her medical card so she can get to the doctor. She was so happy and said there were times that she wanted to give up but didn't because I had told her not to. I never met her in person but we both agreed that it was nothing but God that brought us together so that she could get her card. I was in tears when we finished talking and let her know that she had made my day. Just taking the time to talk and get the information needed to show her where to go made all the difference in the world. We should never be in too big of a hurry to not hear a need and do what we can to help. Based on her address, I think her neighbor who uses our services put my name in her mailbox.

**Paula Wills
Executive Director HVESL**

Fort Wayne Health Visions

The staff at HV Fort Wayne work very closely with the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC). They are presently working with IMHC on a food project. HealthVisions staff are running focus groups to learn about experiences that minority adults may have when shopping for food or getting food for their families, food shopping habits, food choices, and food issues in the community. Hopefully as a result of this study there will be more fresh fruits and vegetables available to the community.

Below is a picture of HVFW staff participating in a workshop along with members from other local coalitions in the surrounding communities.



IMHC's Socioecological Training - Northern Region

IMHC Coalitions from Lake, LaPorte, Allen, Elkhart, Madison, Saint Joseph, Johnson and Grant counties were in Fort Wayne on May 8-9, 2012 with the training facilitator Dr. Lisa Staten from IUPUI



HEALTHVISIONS MIDWEST

Visit our new website:

www.hvusa.org

Community Health Workers

We are employing CHW's to help patients manage their chronic diseases, especially congestive heart failure and diabetes. This in turn reduces costly and unnecessary emergency room visits. Our CHW's reflected on what it means to be a CHW and what success they have experienced.

This is what **Pam Wade**, our CHW, at **Great Beginnings** in Gary had to say:

"It is very simple for me to express what being a CHW means to me. **C** - Communicating with others with compassion and sincerity without prejudice.

H - Hope and Faith replace helplessness

W - Wherever you are, show the value of others by serving them with dignity and respect."

Susie Jimenez, our CHW at **Promotores de Salud Maternal e**

Infantil in East Chicago said this:

"To me being a CHW is like building blocks. In the first block we outreach and educate women so that they can become knowledgeable. In the second block we eliminate the barriers/discrepancies by being an advocate, a coach and train our clients to help themselves. The last block is the reward of building relationships and having positive outcomes for our families."



An example of the influence and work of our CHW program is expressed in this story:

"Maggie experienced many struggles during her pregnancy. She had cancerous cells in her uterus and diabetes, which would require insulin. Maggie also faced the stress of losing her home. As if all of these factors weren't enough, her Medicaid coverage had been suspended for reasons beyond her control. This resulted in her inability to pay for supplies for her diabetes. Upon meeting Maggie, the CHW immediately recognized that she needed additional support, both emotional and financial. Our program was able to provide that for her and she was able to deliver a healthy baby boy. Maggie is now cancer free and owns her own home, with help from our program and the community. Diabetes is an illness that she has to deal with but she has continually learned through training how to control her blood sugars and has adopted a healthier lifestyle."

Through the years HealthVisions has been a leader in educating other agencies about the benefits of CHW's. We are now involved with the Indiana State Health Department in setting up a CHW Coalition throughout the state. This will enable us to share ideas and partner with other agencies to improve the health of the citizens of Indiana.