

HealthVisions Update

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

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Mission in Action

PAY IT FORWARD

Thank you to Board Members



Four of our long standing Board members truly reflect “**Our mission in action**”. Sr. Mary Jo Shingler, former chairperson, Sandy Gleim, from Healthy Communities of LaPorte, Martin Judd, CEO of Our Lady of Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, and Dave McCormick, from Indiana Health Department, have given many years of dedicated service to HVM.

We are sorry to see them leave the board but they leave behind a long history of dedication to HealthVisions and the mission of the Poor Handmaids. They not only reflect our mission but they have given service in reducing health disparities in their own local communities.

Thank you for helping HVM grow into a vibrant organization. We appreciate all you have given us and look forward to having you work with us again in the near future



When a young pregnant woman needed help, the Maternal Child Health program of HealthVisions Midwest, gave her education, needed baby supplies and helped her access health care. After her healthy baby was born she came back and offered her services to help other pregnant women in need.

The Alcance program recently encountered a grandmother in need of services. She has been raising her autistic grandson since her daughter in-law passed away. The Alcance program often receives diapers for older special needs children. Since we had an abundant amount, we wanted to give them to someone in need. The grandmother was presented with the diapers and a bag of groceries from our Community Healthcare Worker (CHW). The groceries were donated from the local food pantry for a needy family. The Alcance program has been blessed with many donations that we are happy to share with the community.



HealthVisions Fort Wayne (HVFW) received the **Community & Science Award** for the work they have done in collaborative community engaged research. This award was given at the Indiana Community Health Engagement Program’s (CHEP) 4th annual meeting on March 20, 2012 in Indianapolis. CHEP's mission is to promote collaboration among community partners throughout Indiana to improve research, health and health care. HVFW conducted a number of community based participatory research projects for them on Diabetes, Black Infant Mortality, Health Issues of Black Men, Health Literacy, and are presently working on a Food Study Project.



Renetta Williams Dir. of HVFW



God Sends a Reminder

Usually, when we think of our “**mission in action**”, we think of the many clients we are serving. Sometimes our greatest ministry is to our very own staff. This past year, we have had a great example of living the mission by helping and praying for Nureya Miller who is a senior accountant here at HVM office in Hammond. Last year, Nureya was diagnosed with breast cancer. She gallantly endured months of chemo and then surgery. During that time, a number of staff donated their PTO days to her so she would not lose her pay. Others in the finance department stepped up to help her with some of her work. She, on the other hand in spite of weakness and illness, continued to do her work at home whenever possible. Lately, she would even come into the office after hours to do some work. She always has a positive attitude and a ready smile. Our prayers go out to Nureya as she continues to heal.



HEALTHVISIONS MIDWEST

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Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily activities that we forget why we do the ministry that we do. Last Friday, God sent a reminder to help me keep perspective. I was sitting at my desk and heard someone ask if I was in the office. I was told that someone wanted to see me. To my surprise, it was one of our seniors that we provide transportation for medical appointments. She had asked the volunteer driver, who just happened to be my husband, to bring her by the office because she wanted to see me and thank us for being there when she needed a ride several years earlier. She wanted to thank us for the work that we do because she said she really needed it and we had been there each time she needed to go for her appointments in St. Louis. She said that there would not have been any other way for her to get to the doctor had we not been able to take her. She gave me a great big hug and we both laughed. I was very surprised to see her. We chatted for a few minutes and she updated me about her current medical condition and said she would be sure to give a donation by the end of the month. She reminded me that we will have to hold it until the third of the month when she gets her check but she wanted to make sure that she donated because we had been so good to her. Before she left, she again gave me a great BIG hug and I gave her one too. It was so good to see her again and she blessed me by sharing how grateful she was for the ministry.

That same day, I received a call from a senior who is 80 years old and had registered for transportation but had not used it. She asked to speak to me and talked a long time about how important the ministry was to her and other seniors in the community. She said we just did not know how difficult it is for seniors to get around in the community for transportation services to the doctor. She thanked me over and over again for the ministry being here. She said that she knew a man who was 91 years old and was blind that needed to go to the VA in St. Louis and had actually gone blind because he could not get transportation there to keep his appointments. She wanted to know if we could help him and I assured her that we could. She was thankful and said that she was going to see if she could have a friend come by her house to pick up a \$5 donation to give us just for being here for other seniors. We talked for a long time and she told me about her life in the area. I realized that she not only needed transportation but just someone to talk to and listen to her. After she had said all she wanted to that day, she said, "I'll let you get back to your work." She didn't realize I had been doing my work all along while I listened to her.

Sometimes we see these calls and visits from our clients as interruptions. But for those of us who are in ministry to serve God's people, these reminders and moments of reflection are so important.



Paula Wills Dir of HVESL

