

On behalf of the Partnership and all of its committees and task forces, we hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!! Some highlights and announcements of recent and upcoming activities are presented below:

We are pleased to announce the establishment of **four** new work groups. First, the **Task Force Leaders Committee** was initiated in December. This committee, composed of the chairpersons for all affiliated task forces, will meet bi-monthly, starting Wednesday, January 24, 2001 @ 11:30 a.m. Its purpose will be to provide a forum for sharing information regarding the work and plans of each group, and for sharing problems and best practices. We also plan to conduct training programs for group leaders on a continuing basis. Second, a **Ways and Means Committee** was also launched for the purpose of creating a clearinghouse for all potential revenue sources to assist in financing the costs of projects and programs undertaken by the Partnership and its affiliated task forces. This committee is also expected to develop strategies to match funding opportunities with identified community needs, and to advise in coordination of this process. It will meet on the first Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Third, the **Senior Services Task Force of Adams County** was started, in response to growing health related needs of the elderly citizens living in Adams County, and in recognition of the fact that this segment of the population continues to grow. This group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Last, the **Latino Services Task Force of Adams County** was also initiated, to serve the special health and related quality of life needs and interests of this rapidly growing population within the Adams County community. This task force will address access barriers facing Latinos, and act as a forum to promote awareness and education through advocacy. This task force will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

On November 16, 2000, a presentation on Partnership development, which featured the **Domestic Violence Task Force**, was given to the **Gettysburg Hospital Board of Directors** by Steve Niebler, Kathy Ketterman and Bill Taft. Board members were then invited to tour the new Partnership office at an Open House program-also extended to the volunteers and members of the A.C.P.C.H. and the A.C.C.C.S.

Well over 500 completed questionnaires have been returned to us so far, in response to the random mailing several weeks ago of 5,000, as part of the current effort to update the **Community Health Needs Assessment for Adams County**. Data entry and analysis is being provided through **United Way of Adams County**. This information will be combined with Focus Group summaries, a look at demographic trending profile of Adams County, and the summary report of a combined study of health-risk behaviors conducted by **Wellspring** this summer for York and Adams Counties, and northern Maryland.

The Partnership has initiated a survey of professional dentist offices located within Adams County as part of an application process seeking federal designation of Adams County as a **Special Population Health Professional Shortage Area for Dentistry**. The objective here is to enhance local efforts to increase access to dental care by persons who receive medical assistance, or who are otherwise unable to fully pay for services.

In recognition of **National Homeless Awareness Week (November 12-18)** the **Homelessness Task Force of Adams County** conducted a series of events. The week's activities began with churches joining in **A Prayer for the Homeless** and conduct of a special offering on Sunday, November 12, followed by a panel discussion of the issue of Homelessness on Adams County Television, Channel 10,

conduct of a **ACommunity Plunge®**, with members of the public visiting the Adams County Rescue Mission, Adams County Housing Authority, Survivors, Inc. (Domestic Violence Shelter), Adams County Office of Assistance and the Adams County Shelter for the Homeless. This was followed by a community dinner at the Gettysburg Fire Hall sponsored by Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC). A focus group discussion was conducted after dinner by William Taft, Executive Director of the A.C.P.C.H. and Kathy Nelson-Small, President, United Way of Adams County.

The Partnership was well represented at the ninth annual **Business Education and Community Fair, AVisions for Tomorrow®**, sponsored by the Gettysburg-Adams County Chamber of Commerce, held at the Gettysburg Area High School on November 4, 2000.

The Domestic Violence Task Force wishes to give advance notice regarding a special workshop scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2001, entitled **AClergy Response to Domestic Violence®**. The purpose of this workshop will be to provide awareness education on the issues surrounding domestic violence. It will address the biblical perspective on violence and offer intervention solutions to area clergy and lay persons for counseling victims of domestic violence. This conference will be held in Community Room AA of the Gettysburg Hospital.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!**

