

November/December 2007

VISION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County seeks to create a higher quality of life throughout our community by improving physical, mental, and social well-being.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County is a collaborative partnership of community members dedicated to continuing assessment, development and promotion of efforts toward improving physical, mental and social well-being.

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ADAMS
COUNTY

Citizens Disabilities Task Force takes steps to make improvements

On Monday, October 29, members of Healthy Adams County's Citizens with Disabilities Task Force (CDTF) accompanied a number of individuals living and working in the Gettysburg area to measure curb cuts in the square of the historic Gettysburg area.

Two active members of the CDTF, Fred Krause and Lou Diehl, happen to be very knowledgeable about matters relating to curb cuts. The task force is utilizing their knowledge, the curb measurement results, as well as the suggestions of individuals to create both a timeline and strategies to help provide effective economical and practical solutions. For information and updates, please consider attending a future CDTF meeting. The task force's meet-

ings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., or call Melissa Reilly at 465-1278.

On other matters, the CDTF is involved in gathering data related specifically to understanding the resources needed to provide necessary physical and occupational therapy services in conjunction with recreational program options for those with disabilities living in Franklin and Adams Counties. Surveys will be dispersed through a variety of methods. If you would like to take the survey, or know someone who might be interested in receiving the information, please contact Melissa Reilly, at 465-1278 or Mary Montgomery at mmontgomery@gotoskn.org.

New Biser Trail warmly received by community



With Gettysburg Borough officials assisting, Janet Lightner and Gareth "Lefty" Biser (center) cut the ribbon to rededicate the Biser Trail at the Gettysburg Recreation Park. The trail, recently refurbished for the benefit of all users, is dedicated to the memory of Janet and Lefty's two sons, Christopher and Kyle Biser, who died in an auto accident in 1985.

Message from the Board President

Healthy Adams County (HAC) has come a long way since its humble beginnings over ten years ago.

I remember quite well getting a telephone call from the president of Gettysburg Hospital, wondering if I wanted to help with an effort that would attempt to link the local health care community and the human service agencies in Adams County closer together. It seemed like the right thing to do and off we went to several meetings in Hershey that taught us the true value of what came to be known as the healthy community's movement.

HAC has changed a lot in the time that we've been around. We are currently guided by our second executive director, Kathy Gaskin. Kathy was preceded by Bill Taft, who took a leap of faith a number of years ago and agreed to get this thing off the ground. Kathy, we're happy to report, just returned from a successful maternity leave and is back in charge after a few well deserved weeks off to bring her new son into the world.

HAC also has had a number of volunteers join our effort over the years. At the current time there are over 600 people working on over 20 task forces, all aimed at making our community a better place to live.

While many people have put in a lot of work to make HAC a success, very few have been as dedicated to its mission as Liberty Township Police Chief Jim Holler. Chief Holler has served on both the Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (ACPTP) and as a member of the Domestic Violence Task Force. Chief Holler is leaving our community at the end of the year and as such HAC must say goodbye to him. His fellow task force members have noted his loss with ACPTP Co-Chair Pamalee Lady noting that "Jim was always there as a committed Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy coalition member. We could always depend on Jim to help with fundraising and programming."

Laura Reyka, ACPTP's other co-chair commented that "the ACPTP has been very fortunate to have Jim serve on our coalition for the past three years. Jim not only represented law enforcement well because of his respect for our Adams County youth, but also as a caring father and concerned community member. I only hope we can find another officer to try and follow in Jim's footsteps. We need more male involvement on the coalition because teen pregnancy is not only a female issue. We will miss Jim's positive attitude and ACPTP involvement."

So one dedicated volunteer leaves and Laura Reyka asks another to step forward. It's what makes HAC and our community so successful.

You can contact the HAC office at 717-337-4137 if you'd like to join this amazing effort.

Steve Niebler

Domestic Violence Task Force focuses on awareness

October was domestic violence awareness month, and to commemorate the occasion the Domestic Violence Month Planning Committee orchestrated a variety of events to help raise awareness and foster a sense of community and healing for those of us whose lives have been touched by family violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Night was held at the Gettysburg College ballroom on October 3. This was a wonderful event at which Chris Goodacre was presented a community recognition award for her work with victims of domestic violence through the Victim Witness Program. In addition, certificates were presented to all the local police departments who serve Adams County in acknowledgement of the important role played by law enforcement in addressing the problem of domestic violence.

As always, the night was an eclectic mixture of entertainment and education, with dance performances by Encore Star Productions, songs by Gettysburg College acapella group Upscale, and soloist Kareema Griest. There was also a special showing of the Jude Binder film Field of Flowers. This is a powerful and moving portrayal of the damage caused by domestic violence told through the use of symbol, dance and narrative.

Field of Flowers was shown throughout the month at Harrisburg Area Community College, Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Seminary. Other October events included Challenge the Dark – a luminary event held on Lincoln Square on October 13, awareness activities held at local high schools, coffee shops and the YWCA, flower distribution at the Gettysburg Outlets and displays of the Shoe Project and Close line Project at Gettysburg College, HACC and the YWCA.

I'd like to give a big thank you to all the volunteers and local businesses that helped to make Domestic Violence Awareness Month a success! Please remember that family violence is a crime that thrives on secrecy and apathy. We need to pay attention all year round.

AIDS Service Provider Network works to change perceptions

To many people, HIV and AIDS seems like something that only people in larger cities need to worry about. Members of the AIDS Service Provider Network, a task force of Healthy Adams County, are working to change this perception in Adams County.

It is certainly true that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS is much larger in urban settings. However, there are individuals who live in Adams County who are living with the HIV virus. They have concerns for their medical needs, dealing with the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS, and access to services. HIV prevention education services are critical for every community because without knowledge, the risk for new infections in the community will increase over time.

The AIDS Service Provider Network exists to address some of these issues and serve as a resource to social service

providers, medical providers, and educators on topics related to HIV and AIDS. Our members include prevention educators, medical providers, public health workers, case managers, and community members. Our goals for the upcoming year are:

- To offer the fourth annual Responding to AIDS conference on March 13, 2008;
- To recognize World AIDS Day, December 1, 2007, by providing red ribbons (the symbol for AIDS awareness), flyers, and literature to social services agencies;
- To increase knowledge in the community concerning the importance of getting tested for HIV by recognizing National HIV Testing Day, June 27, 2008; and
- Increase membership in the AIDS Service Provider Network.

If you are interested in getting infor-

mation about any of our efforts, collaborating with us, or sending a representative to our meetings, please contact the chair of the group, Debbie Gable, Director of Education, Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania at 717-845-9683 extension 205 or Deborah.Gable@ppfa.org.

Together we can work to ensure that people who are living with the HIV virus are treated with respect and dignity and can access the services they need. Through prevention education and awareness, we can reduce the stigma and inform our family members, friends, and neighbors how to prevent the spread of HIV. In the United States 25 percent of all new HIV cases now occur among people under the age of 21. Our young people are at risk. Let's work together to make Adams County a place where people are informed and have access to quality services.

Adams County Dental Health Services recognized



Volunteer dentists at Adams County Dental Health Services were recently honored by Rural Opportunities, Inc. for their countless hours of work with the Migrant and Regional Head Start children. Receiving the corporate volunteer award is (left to right) Dr. Enriquez, the supervising dentist at the clinic, and Wanda Wagaman, the clinical supervisor.

Upcoming Events and Observances

December 2007

Gettysburg Area High School Holiday Market

December 8

Gettysburg Area High School

Featuring a number of vendors including the Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Call Laura at 717-339-2018.

January 2008

Freedom From Smoking

Tuesdays, January 8 – February 26

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Gettysburg Hospital

Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Eight-session clinic designed to help people quit smoking.

Call Jen at 717-338-3259.

Adams County School Nurse In-Service

January 21

Time & Location: TBA

Children's Health Task Force

Call Holly at 717-337-4264, #3.

11th Annual DAY ON

Community Service Project held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 21, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

YWCA of Gettysburg & Adams County

Help sort thousands of items donated to non-profit agencies and the families they serve.

Call the United Way of Adams County Volunteer Center at 717-334-5809.

Healthy Adams County Task Force Social

January 30, 5 – 7 p.m.

The Attic at Gettysburg College

Annual social for task force leaders and their members.

Call Jen at 717-337-4137.