



A Message from the President



It is with gratitude that I served as President of Healthy Homes Coalition during a challenging year when the Flint water crisis unfolded. The crisis brought greater awareness of the ongoing problem of childhood lead poisoning. Our work is not done. The need is great, and the opportunity is here to make a difference. We need everyone's help. Even one child with lead poisoning is one too many.

We are excited as we begin our 10th Anniversary Year and reflect on the impact we have had with the *Get the Lead Out!* campaign and our work to control children's asthma through better housing. Our innovation continues as we engage more volunteers and activate our parent advisory committee. We continue to be inspired by courageous parents who partner with us to advocate for their children.

More than ever we are thankful and appreciative of our donors and partners. Our federal partners at HUD and FEMA continue to demonstrate their confidence as they have renewed their support for fifth and sixth times respectively. Locally, Spectrum Health, the Dyer-Ives Foundation, the Sebastian Foundation, the PNC Foundation, and the Heart of West Michigan United Way continue to sustain our work. We are especially grateful to the 222 individual and corporate donors who supported Healthy Homes financially in the past year.

While we have made great progress, we need to go further. Past efforts have been successful in reducing lead poisoning rates and we want to celebrate that success during our anniversary year. Yet more needs to be done for the sake of the hundreds of children that will be poisoned each year until we finish this work. Your support is key for protecting tomorrow's children.

In Gratitude,

Barbara Meconis, RN
Board President

Our Impact

Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids

- **84 assessments** for lead hazards, asthma triggers, accidental injury, and radon.
- **79 Family-Centered Action Plans** created to map out steps to be taken to address hazards in homes. These plans also identify resources to support improvements.
- **27 families received pest management assistance.** Pests like cockroaches and mice contribute to asthma and allergy-related breathing problems.
- **97% of families increased their awareness** of hazards in the home and how to better protect their child.

Alarms and Safety

- **407 carbon monoxide alarms installed.**
- **1,166 smoke alarms installed.**
- **418 families received alarms.**

Community Outreach & Education

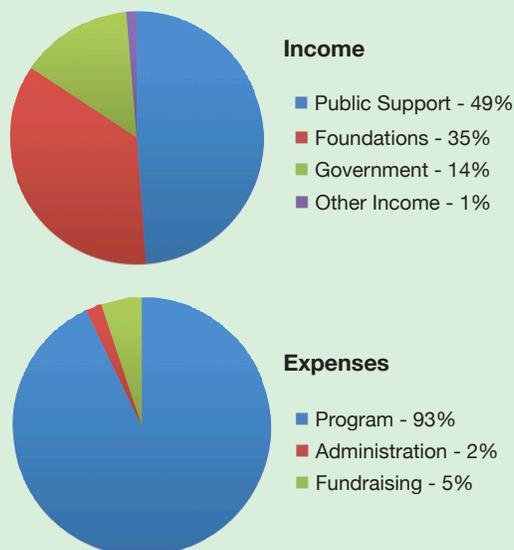
- **19 community outreach events.**
- **More than 100 volunteers** helped us connect with families.
- **10 families received Peer Education** - a new lead hazard education program created by volunteers in April 2016.

Financials

For the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the Healthy Homes Coalition raised \$414,167 in revenue, a slight decrease of 1% from the previous year. Expenses totaled \$341,564. Assets at the end of the year totaled \$130,288.

Public support (other than foundations) constituted 49% of revenue, followed by foundation support at 35%, government contracts at 14%, and other income at 1%. Only 5% of the organization's budget was spent on fundraising.

The Healthy Homes Coalition has a broad base of support. Last year, 222 individuals and corporations made contributions to Healthy Homes, exclusive of grants.



Board of Directors: Barb Meconis (President), Joshlyn Litzenberger (Vice President), Bill Butts (Treasurer), Lori Lemieux-Woodcock (Secretary), Nina Bowser, Julio Cano-San Martin, C.G. Clarke, Brian Hartl, Lynn Heemstra, Gail Heffner, Ramy Ibrahim, Kelsey Perdue, John Smith, Ryan Struck-Vander Haak



One Family's Story



Frequent emergency room visits, unscheduled doctors visits, and missing out on school functions seemed to become a routine for mother Myichelle and her 4 year-old son, De'Mari. When Healthy Homes came to their home, the family had moved into a beautiful, new, affordable home, yet Myichelle was still concerned about her son's battle with asthma and contributing environmental triggers.

The Healthy Homes Coalition worked with Myichelle to improve the air quality and

temperature regulation in their home—likely triggers for De'Mari's frequent asthma attacks. Thanks to generous supporters and funding from Spectrum Health - Healthier Communities and United Way, Healthy Homes provided an air conditioning unit and a hygrometer, which allowed Myichelle ensure that the temperature and humidity was controlled in De'Mari's bedroom. Healthy Homes also provided green cleaning supplies, a HEPA-filtered vacuum, and allergy protected bedding to reduce De'Mari's exposure to dust mites—another asthma trigger.

With reduced exposure to dust mites and improved air quality and temperature regulation, De'Mari is breathing easier in his home. He's now able to stay at school and at home, instead of frequenting the emergency room. And Myichelle now has peace of mind about her son's health. "I feel very happy and secure about what I know now. We are in a good place with everything," said Myichelle.

Who We Serve

The Healthy Homes Coalition serves a representative cross-section of the greater Grand Rapids community with an emphasis upon low-income families. Here's a snapshot of our family partners:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Black or African American | 32% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 33% |
| White, non-Hispanic | 22% |
| Asian | 2% |
| Multiracial | 8% |
| All others | 3% |

Of families we've had multiple visits with...

- 15% are households where **Spanish** is the primary language spoke in the home.
- 40% are **homeowners**.
- 100% qualify for **state assistance** (Medicaid, WIC, or food assistance).
- The **median income** is \$18,000/year.
- Average **family size** is 5 people.

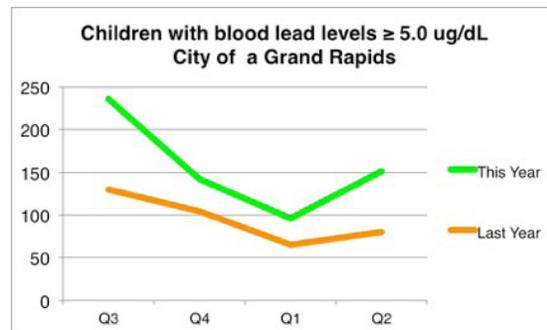
Lead Poisoning Rates Buck 15-Year Trend. Healthy Homes Rises to the Challenge.

For the first time in more than 15 years, there was an increase in the number of lead poisoned children in Grand Rapids in 2015. That increase began in the summer of 2015 and has continued through the second quarter of 2016. Working with the Kent County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (with some consultation from the CDC), we know that most of the increase happened in three high-risk zip codes (49507, 49504, and 40503), and that most of the increase was experienced by children one and two years of age. We know that the problem was not water in Grand Rapids. We suspect that the cause is rooted in increased renovations using unsafe work practices and the increasingly tight housing market that limits options for housing for low-income families with children.

The response of the Healthy Homes Coalition has been immediate and robust. We immediately called together a **Town Hall Meeting** in March to mobilize the community. More than 60 residents and community leaders attended. Volunteers have been **canvassing neighborhoods** with lead safety information and offering water testing. Trained volunteers have begun implementing a **Peer Education** program for parents. We have formed national partnerships with the **Environmental Defense Fund** and **Healthy Babies, Bright Futures** to bring resourceful programming to Grand Rapids parents.

Healthy Homes is working for systemic change. Whether it is in Washington DC, Lansing, or Grand Rapids, the Healthy Homes Coalition is advocating for structural change. In June, Governor Snyder appointed Healthy Homes' Executive Director Paul Haan to **Michigan's Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board**. Healthy Homes has been a leader in the aggressive, national **Find It, Fix It, Fund It** campaign. At the local level, the Kent County Board of Commissioners appointed a **Kent County Lead Task Force** where Healthy Homes will play an active role.

With hundreds of Kent County children identified each year as having harmful levels of lead in their blood, these efforts need to ensure a continued and effective rapid response system for poisoned kids. More importantly, these efforts must also develop solutions that address hazards **before** kids are poisoned. If we only respond to lead poisoned children, we will be stuck chasing the ball downhill and we will never end this problem. To succeed, Healthy Homes is getting out in front of the ball and working to get rid of sources of lead in the environment before children are harmed.



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