

Free Carbon Monoxide Detectors for families with children 13 years of age and younger. Call (616) 241-3300 for eligibility.

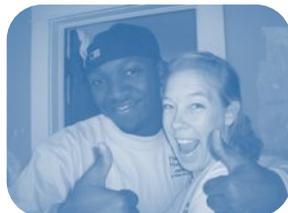
Special Thanks for Your Support!

Without the continued support of our community, we would not be able to provide services to the families who seek our help. Thank you to all of those who have gone above and beyond to assist the Healthy Homes Coalition in its goals and activities:

- ★ Home Repair Services
- ★ First AME Church
- ★ Dyer-Ives Foundation
- ★ United Methodist Community House
- ★ Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association
- ★ Encouraging Family Foundations
- ★ Steelcase Foundation
- ★ SEENA
- ★ Calvin College
- ★ Grand Rapids Community Media Center
- ★ Sandmann's
- ★ CLEARCorps USA
- ★ Southern Fish Fry
- ★ Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- ★ Kent County Health Department
- ★ Health Intervention Services

Now Hiring CLEARCorps Members for 2009

AmeriCorps positions begin January 2009. Includes stipend, health insurance, education award and great opportunities for growth and experience! Call Courtney at (616) 241-3300.



CLEARCorps Helps Family Take Action Against Lead

Antonia Galaviz, a married mother of four, sought out the Healthy Homes' CLEARCorps team after hearing about our free services from Health Intervention Services. A worried but eager mother, Antonia invited the team into her home to check for potential lead hazards.

Like many parents, Antonia is doing her best to keep her children safe in her fix-it-up house. She secures cabinet doors with locks, keeps



harmful substances out of reach of the children and takes many other precautions to ensure her children's safety.

After a blood test confirmed the presence of lead in her young children, she realized that she would have to do more and recruited Healthy Homes to help identify what steps to take next.

After assessing the house, the CLEARCorps team discovered that the Galaviz home had a number of hidden lead hazards. Hazards were found in the living room, the dining room and the bedroom; all places where the children eat, sleep or play.

CLEARCorps performed a "Superclean" to reduce the amount of lead dust in Antonia's home. The family then partnered with Sergio Diaz, Healthy Homes' Spanish-speaking Lead Coach. Sergio helped the family with home repairs using lead safe techniques. According to Antonia, "I'm so excited and happy to know what I can do to keep my kids safe."

Learn how your family can partner with CLEARCorps to eliminate hazards in your home. Call (616) 241-3300.

Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan

Fall 2008 Events

Community Children's Environmental Health Forum

October 13th, 6-8pm
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
558 Henry St SE

A community discussion about children's environmental health sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids Children's Environmental Health Initiative. Dinner and childcare provided.

More events on page 2!

More Fall 2008 Events
continued from page 1

Free Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors

Healthy Homes will install one free CO detector and up to three smoke detectors for families with children 13 years of age and younger. Call **(616) 241-3300**.

Free Radon Testing Begins October 15th

Healthy Homes is providing free radon testing in children's homes. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. To have your home checked, Call **(616) 241-3300** today!

Lead Safe Work Practices Class

October 6th, 6-10pm AND
October 13th, 6-10pm
or

November 3rd, 6-10pm AND
November 10th, 6-10pm

Must attend both sessions to get certificate. Hosted by Home Repair Services. \$30 materials fee. Free for HRS clients and participants in the City of Grand Rapids Lead Hazard Control program. To register, call HRS at **(616) 241-2601**.

Daycare Provider Finds a Way to Keep Kids Lead-Safe



Bonnie Ehlert is a mother who always makes sure that kids are safe—whether it is her own child or the child across the street. Her love for children is demonstrated in her choice of career, running a daycare center in her home.

Since she owns an older home, Bonnie was concerned that the children under her care might be exposed to

lead hazards. She was determined to find a way to address these concerns.

Bonnie contacted the Healthy Homes Coalition to see what she could do to fix the lead hazards. Healthy Homes' CLEARCorps team taught Bonnie how to check her house for lead hazards and then worked with Bonnie to make the home safer. Bonnie was particularly worried about her basement walls that were covered with peeling lead-based paint.

The team safely repaired the walls using lead safe work practices to remove the peeling paint. They then covered the walls with a coat of fresh paint. The team also stabilized the paint on two windows in Bonnie's living room, making the windows lead-safe.

Following the work, Bonnie took dust samples as she was taught by the CLEARCorps team. Not only did these samples come back at a safe level, there was no lead detected at all!

Bonnie is proud of what she has accomplished with the support of the CLEARCorps team. She is now more confident that children are safe in her home. If you have small children in your home, contact the Healthy Homes Coalition for more information on making your home lead-safe.

Call **(616) 241-3300** to learn more.

Healthy Homes Reaches Out to the Hispanic Community

As the population in Grand Rapids becomes increasingly diverse, the Healthy Homes Coalition is working to make all of its services available in Spanish as well as English.

The *¡Hagálo Usted de Manera Segura!* program is specifically designed to work with homeowners who are primarily Spanish-speaking and want to do their own home remodeling. Healthy Homes staff member Sergio Diaz teaches families to use lead-safe work practices when doing home remodeling projects.

The CLEARCorps program also works with Spanish-speaking families to check their homes for high lead levels and then works with them to lower the levels and keep children safe. Courtney Myers-Keaton, the CLEARCorps project manager and Jessica Siekmeier, a CLEARCorps member, both speak Spanish and are able to work with Spanish speaking families. One in five families served by CLEARCorps in 2008 were Spanish speaking.

If you would like more information about these programs, call Courtney or Jessica at **(616) 241-3300**.

Paul's Fall Tips for a Healthy Home

In west Michigan, fall means a change in the weather. It also means that we are soon closing the windows and turning on the heat. The changes in the weather and the changes in our habits make fall a good time to give our homes a check-up.

Carbon Monoxide is the number one source of poisoning death in the United States. Here are some tips to keep your family safe:

- ★ Have your furnace checked before the heating season begins.
- ★ Do *not* warm up your car in the garage!
- ★ *Every* home should have at least one carbon monoxide detector.

Radon can build up in your home during the winter months. A short-term test kit is only \$5 from Healthy Homes or the Kent County Health Department. Have your home tested this fall!

Pests like to make their way inside for the winter, especially mice. To keep mice out, remove all possible sources of food and water in the home and seal up any hole large than a dime. Store food items in hard-sided containers. Fix water leaks. Buy a can or two of spray foam and some caulk and seal up all the little holes around your home.

If you would like help assessing your home for potential hazards, call me at the Healthy Homes Coalition at **(616) 241-3300**.

