



THE CARTER CENTER OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

What If Every Congregation . . . ?

A Sampling of Congregation and
Community Health Promotion Models

Working Paper Series



EMORY

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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Interfaith Health Program

Hubert Department of Global Health

What If Every Congregation . . . ?

A Sampling of Congregation and
Community Health Promotion Models



Interfaith Health Program
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Preface

What if congregations, mosques and temples cooperated with each other to improve the health of people in the communities where they are located? What if faith groups worked with public health agencies to promote health in congregations and communities? What if every congregation had a parish nurse or health minister who would serve as a health promoter in the congregation? What if health leaders in the community (hospital-based, public health, health educators, health activists, religious leaders) met regularly to share what they are doing and work together to realize a common vision for a healthy community?

The answer is that all those things are happening in communities across the country, remarkable initiatives that often are unknown even in the communities where they are located. It is our conviction that everything worth doing is being done somewhere, and it is our mission to identify successful practices as models that might be replicated elsewhere or that might trigger ideas for similar ventures.

People who build successful models are dreamers. What distinguishes their dreams from idle fantasies is that they make their dreams concrete realities with a sustainable future. All of us have great ideas from time to time about what we think ought to happen, but we need examples of how ideas can be put into practice. This booklet provides a sampling of what is possible. Behind each one of them is a person or persons of faith who know how to translate vision into strategy. The mission of the Interfaith Health Program at The Carter Center is to put people with information about how to translate vision into reality in touch with persons in need of their inspiration and practical knowledge.

Program Listings

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Adolescence

Young people in our country are the ones most likely to be at a precipice. They face the pressure of peers and challenging choices and yet often see themselves as invulnerable. The decisions teens make now significantly impact their health and well-being. Role models, meaningful social support, and experiencing a future of hope are critical at this time of life.

Black Male Youth Enhancement Project

The Shiloh Baptist Church is responding to the needs of young black males living in the Shaw community of Washington, D.C. Their Black Male Youth Enhancement Project assists young men in their transition from boyhood to manhood, encouraging participants to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes.

The Project's after school and summer activities include: workshops such as African-American history, drug and alcohol abuse, male sexuality, personal hygiene, first aid, values clarification, and decision-making; a ceremony to mark the transition from boyhood to manhood, a year of manhood training which involves instruction in the development of the body, mind, and soul; tutoring; one-on-one mentoring; and parenting classes for the boys' parents.

The project is supported by funds from Shiloh and the District of Columbia. Forty volunteers (mostly from Shiloh) serve as workshop leaders and mentors. As the project takes only 35 boys at a time, there is often a waiting list from youths in the Shaw community. To date, approximately 600 African-American male youth ages 7 through 18 have been enrolled in this program during the last nine years.

For more information:

Rev. Barry Hargrove, Director
Black Male Youth Enhancement Project
Shiloh Baptist Church/Family Life Center
1510 9th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/332-0213

Adolescence

Teen Link: Church Connection Project

In a creative effort to reach teens through churches, the Adolescent Health Department of the Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham, N.C. developed the *Church Connection Project*. Though formally active for only two years during its funding phase, staff members continue to provide family life education in schools and churches.

Six churches selected members to train as Adult Resource Persons (ARPs). The ARPs were trained by Teen Link to become lay health educators. Training focused on their role, adolescent development, adolescent sexuality, substance abuse, community resources, working with groups, and developing and implementing Church Connection Project activities.

Once trained, the ARPs established Youth Councils in their respective churches. The Youth Councils were a vehicle for discussing those issues of interest to youths; dating and sexuality were often topics of discussion. If Youth Council members demonstrate strong leadership abilities they are nominated to become Youth Resource Persons or Peer Health Educators. They then receive 16 hours of training from Teen Link on how to talk with and make appropriate referrals for other teens.

A manual is still available from the health center called: Working with Churches: A Guide to Establishing Church-based Health Promotion Activities.

For more information:

Kathy Fitzsimmons, RN
Lincoln Community Health Center
Adolescent Health Department
1301 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27717
919/956-4000

Adolescence

Project Alpha

Project Alpha explores the problem of teenage pregnancy from the male perspective. This unique educational project helps young men learn about their role in responsible childbearing. It is a collaborative initiative of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes and has been replicated in communities throughout the United States.

The fraternity sponsors day-long or weekend conferences for male youths in schools and the community. Local chapters of the March of Dimes provide technical support and materials for planning, recruiting, and implementing the program.

Project Alpha has three major components:

Knowledge building -- information about human reproduction and development and the psychosocial and legal consequences of teenage pregnancy gives participants a sound factual framework.

Motivation -- participants are encouraged to clarify their values, set goals, and make decisions that are consistent with those goals.

Taking the message back -- the program urges young men to learn facts, understand responsibility, and share information with peers, family members, and their communities.

Professional members of the fraternity such as pastors, lawyers, physicians, etc. take part in presenting information to the youths. This model could be adopted by any men's organization or mentoring program within the community or congregation.

For additional information contact:

Your local chapter of the March of Dimes or Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Abstract

1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of the proposed system on the performance of the system. The system is designed to improve the efficiency of the system and to reduce the time required for the system to complete the task. The system is designed to be used by the system and to be able to handle the system. The system is designed to be able to handle the system and to be able to handle the system. The system is designed to be able to handle the system and to be able to handle the system.

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Aging

More than any other social institution, congregations have the arms to embrace our aging population. The hardship of institutional care and emotional consequences of isolation often can be avoided with simple support services. Without extended families and with a burdened health care system, creative ways of meeting the broad social and physical needs of older adults is critical.

Adult Day Health Center

More than 10 years ago, Pastor Dean Hunneshagen and the members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church perceived a need to prevent or delay institutionalization for adults who, because of dementia-related diseases and other disabilities, could not adequately care for themselves at home. They also recognized that family caregivers were being stressed to the limit and showing signs of breakdown. To meet this need, in 1984 they constructed an Adult Day Health Center which has been actively providing ministry to the western New York area by combining adult day care with other health-related needs.

In 1993, the program served 133 persons - between 35 and 40 a day. The Center offers transportation to the facility along with support groups and individual consultations for caregivers. A program feature is an intergenerational component done in conjunction with The Child Development Center located on the same grounds and operated by the church since 1974. Both centers have been incorporated into a "sub-corporation" of the church and are currently undertaking a million-dollar capital funding campaign to double services to adults and to expand children's services.

What started as a dream of a 100 family congregation along with a dedicated group of volunteers has grown to be a successful program providing 25 percent of social adult day care in Buffalo, N.Y.

For more information:

Rev. Dean Hunneshagen
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
1025 Borden Rd.
Depew, N.Y. 14043
716/668-8000

Aging

Church-Based Senior Citizen Programs

As a part of a larger Health Promotion Program for Blacks in rural North Florida, six churches were funded to develop, implement, and evaluate church-based cardiovascular health promotion programs. Initially, a Health Advisory Council was established by recruiting members from among church and community leaders in the black population. Church leaders participated in an eight-week series of church-based promotion workshops and formed health committees in each congregation.

Most importantly, the church committees planned their initial church health promotion programs. Each of the church-based health promotion programs formally started with administration of a self-reported health assessment instrument to members of the respective church communities. Following this, each church developed an action plan identifying: goals and objectives of their own church program; helping and hindering forces; supporting forces; individuals responsible for facilitating identified program activities; and examples of specific church-based planned interventions.

Examples of some program activities were "gospitalize" (a program of exercise done to church music), establishing a health club, and quarterly family and intergenerational programs. Some changes brought about by these programs include a reduction in blood pressures and weight; increased number and duration of exercise sessions; changes in community values, e.g. more employee health programs or larger numbers of non-smoking restaurant seats; and increased numbers of individuals using county health unit primary care services and the county receiving reimbursement for provided services.

For more information:

Mary Sutherland
Area Agency on Aging Suite 145B
2639 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fla 32303 904/488-0055

Caregiving

Caregiving programs strengthen community and congregations. They reduce isolation and increase the network of social support for those who have limited access or abilities. This role is natural for congregations. There are several well-used models and structures for developing formal caregiving programs.

BeFriender Ministry

BeFriender Ministry is a model of lay volunteer pastoral training that has been adopted by churches and agencies such as hospitals and nursing homes since 1981. Participating denominations have been Baptist, Episcopal, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ and United Methodist.

Leadership teams comprised of a paid staff person and a lay leader are equipped to train lay people to respond in the name of the church to the emotional and spiritual needs of individuals. The BeFriender leadership team attends a 35-hour coordinator workshop offered at a variety of sites throughout the country. Skills taught include how to organize a BeFriender program, how to prepare BeFrienders and how to maintain the program through on-going peer supervision and faith reflection.

The trained leadership team then returns to their setting with the BeFriending tools. On-going support and resources from the BeFriender Ministry Office includes a complete BeFriender manual for coordinators, two yearly BeFriender Day gatherings and Coordinator Practicums as well as monthly skills-development groups, a quarterly newsletter and access to consultation.

This program builds a sense of community within a church or agency, expands pastoral care, supports people in fulfilling their covenant or baptismal call to serve others, and cultivates interpersonal relationships that make everyday life richer.

For more information contact:

Mary Robinson, Director of BeFriender Ministry
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
University of St. Thomas
2260 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
612/962-5775

Caregiving

Bikur Cholim

Bikur Cholim literally means taking care of the ill. The injunction to care for the sick and disabled among the Jewish community is as old as Judaism. This program is designed to support and guide synagogues, communal organizations, community leaders and public spirited individuals in the formation of Bikur Cholim groups of volunteer visitors through conferences, training sessions and printed materials.

The Coordinating Council on Bikur Cholim has helped to organize Bikur Cholim groups in over 60 synagogues in the New York area. During the last 8 years, close to 2,000 volunteers have been trained. In order to stimulate synagogues across the country to initiate visitation programs, the Council has developed a volunteer training manual. The manual provides the framework for either setting up a new group or maintaining a group of veteran visitors. Each chapter deals directly with a particular aspect of Bikur Cholim.

Chapter one speaks of the ethical foundations of the Jew's obligation to visit the sick. Chapter two defines and describes the roles of the group of volunteers and the volunteer coordinator. Chapters three through eight emphasize the particulars of Bikur Cholim in different settings: an acute-care or general hospital, nursing home, a childrens' hospital, the homebound, members of the HIV/AIDS community, and those entrusted to hospice care. The final two chapters are devoted to critical issues that arise with regard to the continuity of a Bikur Cholim group: strategies to combat stress and burnout, which often cause volunteers to fall by the wayside, and suggestions for recruiting new members.

The Council has collaborated locally with the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and the Board of Rabbis. These groups are available in several other metropolitan areas for training and support services.

For more information contact:

Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin, Executive Vice President
Coordinating Council on Bikur Cholim
130 East 59th St. Room 306
New York, NY 10022 212/836-1197

Caregiving

Interfaith Volunteer Caregiving

In 1984, 25 interfaith coalitions -- congregations, churches, temples and synagogues -- began to experience the strength and effectiveness of working together in a ministry of volunteer caregiving. The help that their 11,000 volunteers gave to some 26,000 persons in need changed all of their lives forever. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation identified this as a model that could reach and meet the needs of millions.

Aware of the great unmet needs of so many in our country, a national federation was formed with a single purpose: to assist congregations of all faiths to come together to provide an effective volunteer caregiving ministry. Developing an effective volunteer caregivers project is within the reach of every interfaith or ecumenical coalition. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregiving (IVC) model has now been successfully replicated by over 400 coalitions in 45 states. In 1993, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced the "*Faith in Action Program*". This national program provides assistance in planning and start-up funding to interfaith coalitions seeking to establish an Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program.

This model of coalition building and volunteer training serves as a blueprint for a grassroots effort to develop a caregiving ministry around any unmet need among communities served by congregations.

For more information contact:

National Federation of Interfaith Volunteer
Caregivers, Inc.
368 Broadway, Suite 103
P.O. Box 1939
Kingston, New York 12401
914/331-1358 or (800) 331-1393

Caregiving

The Stephen Series

The Stephen Series is a complete system of training and organizing lay persons for caring ministry in and around their congregations. It equips lay persons from enrolled congregations to minister to the terminally ill and their families, those facing life transitions, the lonely and depressed, the aging and elderly, and others needing Christian care.

Stephen Ministries makes available the following resources for enrolled congregations:

- A 12-day Leader's Training Course
- Training Manuals and Leader's Manuals
- A ministry system that the congregation uses to set up a workable and lasting lay caring ministry
- Ongoing consultation with the Stephen Ministries staff to respond to questions and concerns about the Stephen Series system.

This system enables the entire congregation to grow as a warm, loving, nurturing community. The contagious caring of Stephen Ministers expands to touch more and more lives. Pastors are renewed with joy and fulfillment as they equip others and so extend the reach of their own ministries.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Ministries
8016 Dale
St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1149
314-645-5511

Community Development

Faith groups must reclaim the biblical and theological heritage of community and shalom by empowering local congregations to be catalysts in organizing communities of shalom, peace and wholeness. Many committed congregations are doing just that. The following examples show how the faith community is playing a pivotal role in developing economic prosperity, combating racism, coordinating community resources, and empowering community leaders and residents.

Bethel New Life, Inc.

With the hard work of a community board of directors and help from corporations, churches, foundations, individuals and government, Bethel's initial housing focus has evolved into a holistic community transformation. "God's people weaving together a healthier community" is their motto. Begun in 1979, Bethel New Life, Inc. is a church-related community development corporation serving a west side Chicago, low-income community.

Bethel offers an array of services that contribute to a decent and affordable place to live, liveable-wage jobs, a safe community, institutional regeneration, healthy people, strengthened families, and care for seniors. The Bethel Holistic Health Center provides a full range of primary care and prevention services to this largely African-American community.

Special new health programs include Lead Outreach and Advocacy and Umoja Senior Services, an African-American community-based care program for frail elderly. In one year, 100 families have been served in an effort to identify children with high lead levels, increase their access to health care, and reduce exposure in the community.

In 1995 Bethel will embark upon a five year strategic plan focusing on collaboration to bring into the community the services that are needed. Thanks to a challenge grant through the HUD John Heinz Neighborhood Development Program, they can expand the planning process to include the whole community. This year Bethel New Life received the Healthcare Forum's Healthier Communities award for its broad-based efforts to create a healthy community and as a unique example of the power of community collaboration.

For more information:

Mary Nelson, President, Bethel New Life, Inc.
367 N. Karlov
Chicago, IL 60624
312/826-5540

Community Development

Lawndale Community Church

Lawndale Community Church "seeks to bring Christian holistic revitalization to the lives and environment of its residents through economic empowerment, housing improvement, educational enrichment, quality affordable health care, and Christian discipleship".

In 1976, Rev. Wayne Gordon started a youth group, setting up a weight machine and a ping-pong table in a storefront building in this African-American neighborhood on the southwest side of Chicago. Eighteen years later, Lawndale is a 500-member, interracial congregation employing 135 people through a health clinic with 15 doctors that serves over 4,000 people a month, a multi-faceted program geared to equipping high school students to go to college, a thrift store, and a housing rehabilitation effort that has remodeled 50 apartments that are sold at affordable prices to community people.

In recent years, the church has focused attention on investing in the neighborhood's youth and developing them into community leaders. Lawndale's college ministry assists people to enter college and builds a support system enabling them to succeed and graduate once there. Now, several indigenous African-Americans are leading Lawndale's programs. The church is now lead by a black pastor. Gordon, a white man, coordinates the community outreach programs.

For more information contact:

Rev. Wayne Gordon, President
Lawndale Christian Development Corporation
3848 W. Ogden Ave
Chicago, Ill 60623
312/762-6389

Community Development

Shalom Zone

Shalom Zone is a model developed by the United Methodist Church as a response to the destruction in Los Angeles following the Rodney King verdict. Initially, the church called for a response in which they, "in solidarity and consultation with indigenous persons and local churches in a selected neighborhood would commit themselves to the creation in Los Angeles of a Shalom Zone". As Shalom Zones in L.A. were developed, it became clear that there was a need across the country for the development of Shalom Zones.

A Shalom Zone is a defined geographical location within a community in which local congregations play a pivotal role in developing economic prosperity, fighting racism, coordinating community resources, empowering community leaders and residents to plan for their community's future and proclaiming the Gospel. Shalom Zones work within four areas: developing economic stability; addressing race and class issues; improving health care and coordination of social services; and developing the role of congregations as witnesses and as strategic bases for ministry within the community.

The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries will assist Shalom Zones with the implementation of their strategies through training, resource materials, technical assistance and leveraging of funds. This model could certainly be adopted by other denominations or interfaith and inter-disciplinary groups.

For more information:

John R. Schol, Exec. Sec. for Urban Ministry
United Methodist Church
475 Riverside Drive, Room 332
New York, NY 10115
212/870-3832

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Families

Families are on America's critical list. Congregations have traditionally nurtured the family. This key unit of social support contributes significantly to the health of individuals and communities. Families will have the greatest chance of maintaining strength and stability with spiritual and social support from their communities.

S.E.T. Ministry, Inc. Serve-Empower-Transform

This organization provides several services to the poor in the central city neighborhoods of Milwaukee. One service, the Empowerment Program seeks to counteract the sense of powerlessness in families and to help them reach their full potential as active, productive, contributing members of society.

The S.E.T. empowerment process begins with the identification of family strengths, accomplishments and past successes. The central focus is enhancing client skills and knowledge in the areas of wellness, self care, health promotion and sound nutrition. Families are taught ways to improve other daily living skills, especially in areas of financial management, problem solving, self advocacy, education, housing and employment. As clients experience success in these areas, they demonstrate more control over their lives.

S.E.T. also has a Health and Human Services Clinic, a Preventive Mental Health program, Volunteer Services, and an AIDS Ministry.

For more information contact:

Sister Lucina Halbur
President and CEO
S.E.T. Ministry, Inc.
2977 50th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414/449-2680

Families

Project SPIRIT

SPIRIT stands for Strength, Perseverance, Imagination, Responsibility, Integrity, and Talent -- those qualities essential for the development of human potential and character. The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. developed this three part church-based program which addresses the needs of black children, parents and pastors. The key program components are the After-School Program for children, the Parenting Education Program, and the Pastoral Counseling Training Program.

The after-school tutorial program for children ages 6-12 is administered by volunteers. The curriculum covers home living skills, communications and media arts, math and science, production and distribution, and/or economic development. This self-esteem building model nurtures pride in oneself and in one's culture.

One night each week during nine-week sessions, parents gather and are guided through exercises and discussions to fortify their skills as parents and prepare them for new challenges facing youths. Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.) is used as the foundation for parenting training.

The final component is pastoral counseling training. Each week local pastors review case studies, share concerns regarding church communities and develop counseling strategies appropriate for issues confronting today's families.

CNBC provides training and technical assistance in the establishment of Project SPIRIT sites. Currently, Project SPIRIT operates in 14 cities in California, Georgia, Indiana, New York, Minnesota, Arkansas and Washington, D.C.

For more information:

B.J. Long, Project Director
The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc.
1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005, 202/371-1091

Health Clinics

Many congregation-based health clinics are creatively and compassionately meeting the primary care needs of those who fall between the ever widening cracks in the U.S. health care system. Utilizing volunteer health professionals, training lay health advisors, creating unique partnerships with other health care providers, and making efforts to be geographically accessible to those without resources are some of the ways the following congregation-based clinics are making a difference.

Cary Christian Center

This health center serves rural counties in Mississippi with a population - largely African-American - of 6,000. Through the services of the center, residents receive primary care and also participate in the development of their community. Eight hundred volunteers do everything from building homes to tutoring children. Collaborative partners include the university medical center and the State Board of Health.

A perinatal community health outreach worker program from the Center has had a significant impact on reducing infant mortality during the last three years. Community women are trained to provide education and support services to young pregnant women and new mothers during home visits.

Cary Christian Center operates under the umbrella of The Luke Society, Inc. This organization provides start-up funding and administrative technical support to innovative, Christian health programs targeted at the underserved.

For more information contact:

Peter Boelens, Executive Director
The Luke Society, Inc.
1121 Grove St.
Vicksburg, MS 39180
601/638-1629

Health Clinics

Central Health Center

Central Health Center is a 70+ year-old clinic sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church and St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services. The clinic was founded in 1922 as a well baby clinic and has consistently broadened its range of services to meet changing community needs. The clinic provides primary care services including adult health care; well child care and immunizations; chronic disease management; HIV Care and dental care.

Clinic Health Center's mission is to provide quality, compassionate, affordable healthcare to the working poor and medically underserved. The clinic is located in downtown Atlanta, within Central Presbyterian Church. Services are also taken directly to needy communities so clients can access care in their own neighborhoods. Care is provided by physicians and nurse practitioners. Volunteers from Central Presbyterian Church are active in clinic operations and services, which are available in both English and Spanish.

Many of Central's clients have Medicaid and some have health insurance. All services are offered on a sliding fee scale. Government and private foundation grants, contributions from Central Presbyterian Church and St. Joseph's are essential to the clinic's financial viability.

In 1994, the clinic provided almost 10,000 episodes of care. The annual budget is \$900,000.

For more information:

Central Health Center
201 Washington St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404/659-0117

Health Clinics

Church Health Center

The Church Health Center, a not-for-profit ecumenical health care initiative founded in 1987 by G. Scott Morris, M.D., M. Div., seeks to reclaim the biblical and historical commitment of the church to care for the poor and to care for the sick. With the volunteer services of health professionals, along with staff, the Memphis-based center provides affordable, quality primary health care for the working poor, children, the elderly, the disabled, and homeless.

One hundred volunteer primary care physicians, 100 nurses and 65 dentists give their time to support the after-hours services. Currently, 130 congregations donate resources (financial and in-kind) to the clinic.

A Lay Advisor Program has trained 120 volunteer lay advisors from 70 congregations since 1988. Lay Advisors are respected members of their churches who volunteer to receive special training at the Church Health Center on common medical problems. After eight weeks of classes, the graduates are commissioned by their pastors to watch after the health needs of their fellow members. A "Health Watch" bulletin board is given to every church for posting health education materials provided by the Center. Lay Advisors serve in such ways as helping a diabetic understand the importance of diet and exercise, making sure elderly members are taking their medications correctly, seeing that pregnant women are getting pre-natal care, educating church members about AIDS, being a caring listener for someone whose personal life is in transition, or giving young mothers information about immunizations and normal child development.

For more information:

Church Health Center
Jean Campbell, Director
1210 Peabody Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104-4570
901/272-0003

Health Clinics

The Free Medical Clinic

Ten years ago, a clinic began as a part of the Bethlehem Community Center with seed money from the Trenholm Road United Methodist Church in Columbia.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 4 until 9 p.m., volunteer doctors, nurses, and lab technicians provide health-care services to residents of Columbia who meet federal poverty guidelines and have no form of health insurance. Local specialists and hospitals accept referrals from the clinic and provide needed services free of charge.

With pledges from some 35 churches and United Way, and public and private funds, this clinic has been able to offer medical services to those who would ordinarily have to go without care.

For more information:

Sarah Patterson-Franklin, Executive Director
The Free Medical Clinic, Inc.
1875 Harden St.
P.O. Box 4616
Columbia, SC 29204
803/765-1503

Health Clinics

New Song Family Health Center

The goal of New Song Family Health Center, a ministry of New Song Community Church, is "to help reweave health and wholeness into the fabric of our community". Being church and community-based has made it possible for the center to link with other services such as housing, economic development, and educational programs to serve the whole person and community.

The health center serves a 12 block area in Sandtown, a West Baltimore neighborhood of uninsured, African-Americans. Ten volunteers provide primary care and health education and promotion to over 1,000 adults and children per year at no charge. The center receives in-kind medicines from pharmaceutical companies which enables it to meet important needs on a very small budget. Plans for 1995 include major expansion of the Health Center and its staff and services.

For more information contact:

Mark R. Gornik
New Song Family Health Center
1385 N. Gilmor Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
410/728-2816

Health Clinics

St. Thomas Health Services Clinic

Seven years ago, two nuns - Sisters Marion Puerzer and Jane Merschel - decided to help the African-American residents of the St. Thomas Housing Project get the health care they needed. Originally volunteer and church-based, this program has turned into a unique private-public partnership now serving 8,000 community members.

Four health practitioners provide primary care and pediatric and women's health services to a population without insurance and with low incomes. Each physician sees only about 20 patients a day in order to give quality care.

The St. Thomas Clinic is able to provide comprehensive health services for their patients through generous partnerships with local hospitals and universities. Substantial "moral, spiritual", and financial support is given by members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Local hospitals, LSU, Xavier University, and several Catholic churches support the St. Thomas Health Services care of this community with loaned staff, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic testing, extended medical treatments and services. Mercy Hospital gives the clinic a 90 percent discount for their clients.

The clinic has been recognized by government health agencies and the March of Dimes with large grants for Maternal and Child Health Services. "This clinic has been blessed with having many human angels behind the scenes."
For more information:

Dr. Mary Abell, Medical Director
St. Thomas Health Service Clinic
2063 Annunciation St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
504/529-5558

Health Clinics

The Health Ministry Project

This model is a special lay health worker project of the Swope Parkway Health Center, which serves a central city black community in Kansas City. Volunteer Health Care Coordinators from each of 40 participating churches are trained by the local school of nursing. These coordinators then serve as the health-care connection between members of their congregations and health-care services in the community. Supervised by a health center project coordinator, they provide health education, referrals, and health needs assessments. They also convene and facilitate support groups, visit shut-ins, and perform health screenings.

The membership of the partner churches is approximately 39,000 (mostly African-American) of whom 28 percent are 65 or older. This project has also led to the formation of a Church Task Force on AIDS and establishment of a home for unwed pregnant women. To reach faith group leaders, five workshops for ministers have been held.

For more information:

Rev. Raymond Handy
Swope Parkway Health Center
4900 Swope Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64130
816/923-5800 ext. 335

Health Clinics

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic (VIM)

A unique free health clinic, using volunteer retired medical personnel, was opened June 9, 1994 for the nearly 8,000 medically underserved on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Now, they can assure that every person living or working on Hilton Head can have an easy access to high-quality medical care.

With no incentive, other than the opportunity to do what they always most wanted to do--provide medical care--they have recruited 55 physicians, 68 nurses and 15 dentists. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided a planning and development grant.

The Volunteers in Medicine Clinic has built and dedicated, debt free, a 7,000 square foot facility where they provide the following clinics and care: pediatric, adult medical, eye, ENT, orthopedics, dermatology, cardiology, gynecology, neurology, genitourinary, immunizations, chiropractic, psycho-social evaluation, pharmacy, laboratory and soon to be added x-ray and dental.

Unlimited malpractice coverage, with a 21 year "tail", is provided for all the 250 lay and professional volunteers at a total annual cost of approximately \$5,000/year.

They have created a "Culture of Caring" which may be unique. Every patient has an escort throughout the process and conducts an exit interview with the patient to determine how the care can be improved and to see if there are other areas of their lives with which they need help. The Volunteers In Medicine Clinic is transforming the lives of both the caregivers and the care recipients. And, in the process, transforming their community.

For more information:

Jack McConnell, M.D.
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic
P.O. Box 23287
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29925-3287
803/681-6612

HIV/AIDS

Many congregations have responded to the needs of the increasing numbers of persons living with AIDS. Yet there are more that have not opened their doors and others that are unsure of how to respond to those perceived as "lepers". Here are a few programs that are engaged in compassionate and dedicated services caring for those living with AIDS and those infected with HIV. Congregations can greatly impact the spread of AIDS by reducing fear and stigmatization and by supporting prevention education.

AIDS Interfaith of Marin

For persons with HIV and AIDS, their families, friends, significant others, loved ones, and caregivers, AIDS Interfaith of Marin offers spiritual support, counseling prayer, visualization, worship services, communion, and memorial services. Other services include celebrations of life, pastoral care education and workshops for churches, synagogues, and all religious and faith communities, and community education to prevent the spread of HIV infection.

They also have an HIV Wellness Program that includes HIV Educational Wellness Groups and Community Education Forums for persons with HIV for self-directed health maintenance.

AIDS Interfaith of Marin works cooperatively with other AIDS interfaith networks across the country, as well as local AIDS service organizations, the Marin AIDS Advisory Commission, and Marin Interfaith Council. They have received funding from a variety of sources including a major grant from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., local Health Maintenance Organizations, and the United Way.

For more information:

Rev. David Martin, Director
AIDS Interfaith of Marin
P.O. Box 2665
San Anselmo, CA 94979
415/455-5636: business hours
415/257-8367: after hours

HIV/AIDS

DOORWAYS

DOORWAYS is a unique and comprehensive housing project with six staff members and 30 volunteers who provide housing opportunities to individuals and families with AIDS. The Residential Program provides fully furnished apartments for low-income individuals and families. The Own Home Program subsidizes rent or mortgage payments for persons who would otherwise be unable to afford to stay in their own home.

Their Emergency Fund Program gives one-time-only rent or mortgage payments for persons experiencing a "housing crisis". Information about property managers who are "AIDS sensitive" and locations of available units are shared through the Clearinghouse Program. Their Outreach Program is designed to seek out HIV-positive individuals who do not have access to or the knowledge of the services of DOORWAYS or other agencies. A new 36-unit Supportive Housing Facility will open in late 1995.

DOORWAYS collaborates with a host of other organizations, some of which are the St. Louis Effort for AIDS, Northside AIDS Outreach Project, St. Louis Metropolitan AIDS Program, HIV/AIDS Services Unit, Bureau of Special Health Care Needs, Hemophilia/AIDS Services, Cardinal Glennon Childrens Hospital, and Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS.

For more information:

Lynne M. Cooper, D.Min.
DOORWAYS Interfaith AIDS Residence Program
P.O. Box 4652
St. Louis, MO 63108
314/454-9599

HIV/AIDS

RAIN Arkansas

The purpose of RAIN is to provide compassionate AIDS education in religious and community settings, to recruit, train, and maintain congregation-based care teams, and to provide emotional and spiritual support for all infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In 1994, 289 educational programs and presentations were given by RAIN staff and volunteers in schools, colleges, health groups, fraternal organizations and churches.

One hundred and seven Careteams have been trained from 14 different denominations. Each Careteam is assigned a "carepartner" (an individual or family living with AIDS) for the length of their journey. Careteams give practical support such as transportation, meals, light housework, social outings and emotional support--hugs, listening, friendship and acceptance. Other RAIN services include: support groups for mothers, persons with AIDS (PWA's), caregivers, and HIV-positive women; bi-annual four-day spiritual retreats for persons with AIDS; community-wide memorial and healing services; and in-service education days.

In the past 5 years, six staff members and 1500 Careteam volunteers have served 339 men, women, children, and babies with AIDS. Financial support has come from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Levi-Strauss, individuals, churches, memorials, and other corporations. Thirty percent of those served are black and 12 percent are women. Congregations have benefited from having care teams in their midst. Also, relationships between the gay community and the religious community have been greatly enhanced.

For more information:

Trudy James, Exec. Director
RAIN Regional AIDS Interfaith Network
2002 S. Fillmore
Box 12
Little Rock, AR 72204
501/664-4346

HIV/AIDS

North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Dr. Ellen Tabor, R.N. developed a presentation outline, handouts, and a list of resources for nurses to use in their own congregations. She put together a continuing education course for a statewide nurses convention, creating an incentive for nurses to participate in the learning experience along with tools for facilitating the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention for a hard-to-reach audience.

For more information contact:

Dr. Ellen Tabor, R.N.
1360 Pinebluff Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
910/765-9074

HIV/AIDS

SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Church AIDS Program

This church program employs a community diffusion model to identify churches and train its designated members and surrounding community leaders about the latest HIV/AIDS trends and how they affect the African-American community.

The program provides comprehensive training to members in the church to develop strategies to plan and implement church outreach AIDS ministries, coordinate activities for church members to develop programs for people living with HIV/AIDS in the African-American community, and provide and coordinate workshops, seminars and health fairs, featuring African-American HIV/AIDS experts. Its effectiveness is strengthened through its church "cluster program" to support area churches.

The SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Church Program has been conducted in the following cities: Kansas City, Missouri; Charlotte, North Carolina; Detroit, Michigan; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Dayton, Ohio; Los Angeles, California; and Atlanta, Georgia.

For more information contact:

Ms. Evelyn Lowery
SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Church Program
334 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404/522-1420

Homelessness

Congregations are often eager to provide food, clothing, and temporary shelter for the homeless. This population has grown significantly in the last two decades following changes in mental health institutional regulations and during economic hardship. Health care for the homeless, including substance abuse treatment and medical care, is challenging even for the most faithful servants.

Cafe 458

This unique cafe provides more than food for homeless men in Atlanta. Guests receive counseling, free legal services, and alcohol and drug recovery treatment. The cafe seats 50 and meals are served by reservation only, through referrals from shelters and social service agencies.

Founded and run until recently by a Baptist minister and his wife who is a nurse, this model is being replicated in several cities around the country. The program runs solely on donations, grants, and volunteer time. It works because it focuses on returning one thing to the people on the streets: their self-respect.

An effort is currently underway to create a guide for setting up programs like Cafe 458.

For more information:

Cafe 458
P.O. Box 89125
Atlanta, GA 30312
404/525-3276

Homelessness

Christ House - Columbia Road Health Services

Church of the Savior works collaboratively with other city groups to meet health care needs of homeless people in Washington, D.C. Christ House, one of the church's Jubilee Health Ministries, is a 34-bed hospice for homeless men. Here, homeless men who are ill but not sick enough to be in the hospital receive care, social services, and housing services support. In collaboration with the Health Care for the Homeless Project and the Catholic Diocese, Christ House has a walk-in clinic and a referral system for necessary medical services.

Four physicians and two nurses who serve patients at Christ House and at the church's Columbia Road Health Clinic, live with their families in Christ House. In addition, there are 300 volunteers who support the care at Christ House. Men arrive here through the walk-in clinic, are brought to Christ House on the Homeless Project medical van, or are referred by Columbia Road Health Services.

For more information please contact:

Rev. Alan Goetcheus, President
Christ House, Church of the Savior
1717 Columbia Rd. NW
Washington, D.C. 20009 202/328-1100

or

Barbara Young, Director
Columbia Road Health Services
1660 Columbia Rd. NW
202/328-3717

Maternal and Child Health

Many have said that hope and even the measure of civilization resides in the well-being of our children. The United States is lagging behind most other industrialized nations in our infant mortality rates. Helping babies come into the world healthy and cared for has immeasurable benefits to society. It is for these most vulnerable that the arms of caring congregations can have the most impact.

Cary Christian Center

Cary Christian Center (a primary care clinic) has a community outreach worker program to reduce infant mortality in rural Mississippi. They select and train community members to provide perinatal support and health education to young, black mothers in the two counties they serve. A set of lesson plans used to train lay health personnel in providing spiritual health care has been written and is available upon request.

Through the Domestic Missions Program, the Director of Community Health Programs will provide consultation to those developing lay health personnel in a Christian setting.

For more information contact:

Grace Tazelaar, R.N.
Director of Community Health Programs
The Luke Society, Inc.
1121 Grove St. P.O. Box 349
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0349
601/638-1629

Maternal and Child Health

Ecumenical Child Health Project

The Ecumenical Child Health Project of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches was one of three pilot projects nationwide of the National Center for Children in Poverty in collaboration with the National Council of Churches. The mission of this project was to involve and support congregations in efforts to assist children, ages 5 and under from low income families in the Pleasant Grove community to gain access to primary health care services.

After two years, the Ecumenical Child Health Project officially ended. However, the work of the project was expanded upon in the AmeriCorps/Making Connections for Children and Youth program of GDCC. In this project, 50 AmeriCorps Members work in teams in five neighborhoods in the following efforts: tutoring and mentoring in public schools, teaching violence prevention curriculum in public schools, expanding the summer food program, and assisting low income families in accessing primary health care.

The Health Care Component of AmeriCorps in all five neighborhoods is the expansion of the Ecumenical Child Health Project, which only served one neighborhood. Some of the staff funding comes through the Healthy Start federal grant, administered in Dallas through Parkland Memorial Hospital. Thirteen AmeriCorps Members work with clinics, schools, and community groups to improve health care access. Projects include: teen moms support groups, EPSDT week at public schools, reminder phone calls for health clinics, home visits, and working with school nurses and school based clinics.

For more information contact:

Rev. Carolyn Bullard-Zerweck, Program Associate
Greater Dallas Community of Churches
2800 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
214/824-8680 or 214/824-8726

Maternal and Child Health

Hold Out the Lifeline

This is a project developed by the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality to educate clergy about the issues of infant mortality and low birth weight, to encourage clergy to educate members of their congregations, to provide clergy with program ideas, and to foster cooperative relationships between church officials and local congregations.

Some of the programs initiated throughout the South include Transportation, Resource Mothers, Telephone Reminder Program, Layette Incentive Program, Translation Services, Crisis Intervention Centers, and Prenatal Education Classes. Churches, mosques, and synagogues provide volunteers, church-owned vehicles, labor support, clothes, layettes and baby supplies, and space for gatherings.

In South Carolina, Hold Out the Lifeline: A Prenatal Mission has become a partnership between the South Carolina State Department of Health, the March of Dimes, and the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Their goal is to train members of faith communities to help women overcome barriers to prenatal care. Some churches target young men, teaching family responsibility. To date in S.C. 650 Prenatal Care Advocates have been trained to serve predominantly low income, minority pregnant women and significant others.

For more information:

Stephanie Harrison, Director
Hold Out the Lifeline
444 North Capital St. Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/624-5460

For resource materials: 800/800-1910

Maternal and Child Health

HOPE For Kids

HOPE for Kids, a volunteer-driven outreach program is demonstrating significant progress in educating families and helping them overcome the barriers that parents face in getting their children immunized. This community-based organization is comprised primarily of volunteers, many of whom are residents of the inner city themselves, linked with government health officials, health care providers, national and local rotary and businesses. But its roots are with the International Church of Christ, from which they draw the majority of their volunteers.

HOPE's technique for child immunization is to canvass neighborhoods, talking to parents to encourage them to immunize their children. Volunteers tell parents where to go for vaccinations and how to get there; HOPE notifies parents when follow-ups are needed; the progress of each child is monitored via HOPE's computers.

In a national rally last October, more than 25,000 HOPE volunteers knocked on 150,000 doors to identify children at risk. More than 10,000 kids were signed up. In 1994 in New York City, more than 4,500 volunteer hours were logged, 12,000 parents educated and 924 kids entered into the HOPE tracking system. In three months, more than 80% of these were up-to-date in their immunizations and nearly 20% were fully immunized.

For more information:

Bud Chiles, Executive Director
HOPE for Kids
319 Windsor Terrace
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201/796-7040

Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Substance Abuse Program for Native American Women

This program is a collaborative effort between the United Indian Health Services and Calvary Lutheran Church Eureka, California to address the use of drugs among pregnant Native American women. With funding from the Wheatridge Foundation, three staff members - a program director, a health worker, and a prenatal counselor - filled a gap in public health services to pregnant women using drugs. Services include health education, counseling and medical care as efforts to reduce the incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Active for three years, this project has had an impact on the way United Indian Health serves Native American pregnant women and has begun to raise the level of awareness within the community of prenatal substance abuse.

For more information contact:

Rev. David G. Mullen
Calvary Lutheran Church
716 South Ave
Eureka, CA 95503
707/443-1575

Maternal and Child Health

Young Moms East

Young Moms East (YME) is in the third year of bringing together neighborhood resources to comprehensively meet the needs of young pregnant and parenting moms and their children. The purpose of the program is to provide easily accessible health and social services that are holistic and sensitive to the fragile needs of this unique population. YME seeks to address the preservation, restoration, development, and support of a balanced family unit.

Using church space, three half-time employees (case manager, nurse midwife, and social worker) provide the following services to young and high-risk pregnant and parenting women:

- Peer support and role models
- Child development and parent/child health education
- Clothes closet and baby equipment
- Respite child care
- Medical and social services case management
- Individual health assessment, counseling, instruction, and advocacy
- In-home individual and family counseling
- Home visitors for personal support

This project is supported by funding from Iowa Lutheran Hospital, the Iowa Lutheran Hospital Foundation, local civic groups, Wheatridge Foundation, and First Lutheran Church.

For more information contact:

Elsa Conner, Supervisor
Young Moms East
511 Des Moines St.
Des Moines, IA 50309-5450
515/288-8024

Mental Health

Seventy percent or more of the mentally ill live with aging parents whose greatest fear is that when they die, their family member will eventually have to live on the streets.

Approximately 40 percent of families turn first to their clergy upon learning of the mental illness of a loved one. Congregations can fill the gap in effective extended social support systems for the mentally ill in addition to naturally providing social support that prevents mental illness.

Hispanic Outreach Initiative

Initiated by Manhattan-based Blanton-Peale Institutes of Religion and Health (IRH), a new Spanish language outreach project trains clergy and lay leaders to help Hispanic parishioners gain access to mental health services. Phase I began in January of 1993 with a series of Saturday "pastoral care awareness" workshops to increase the knowledge of pastors regarding the emotional needs of those in their church communities. Led by six Spanish-speaking instructors, the IRH workshops attracted more than 100 clergy and lay leaders from across the city's diverse Hispanic neighborhoods.

In August, with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Phase II was launched. This pastoral care skills portion offered training for identifying parishioners in emotional distress, intervening in crises, providing short-term counseling, and making referrals for long-term professional counseling and treatment. Thirty classes plus retreats are now being offered over a two-year period for the 24 participants currently enrolled.

For many Hispanic immigrants landing on America's shores, the churches have been a source of comfort and stability. Skilled clergy will be able to reach out to help these newcomers adjust to the many problems that making the transition to inner-city life entails.

For more information:

Anne E. Impellizzeri, President and CEO
Blanton-Peale Institutes of Religion and Health
3 W. 29th St. 5th Floor
New York, NY 10001
212/725-7850

Mental Health

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Once a month for 19 years, the Lexington County Mental Health Center conducted an out-patient clinic at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. While clients were waiting for appointments in the fellowship hall, congregation members provided activities and refreshments. Occasionally, the volunteers brought in childrens' groups who perform music and puppet shows. Many clients now consider St. Peter's "their church".

Outside of the time at the church, they have organized day trips for clients and their families such as picnics or visits to Friendship Center in Columbia. When hospitalized, mental health clients have become part of those visited by the pastor of St. Peter's. At the request of the congregation volunteers, the Mental Health Center organized training to help them understand mental illness and develop skills in interacting and relating to the clients.

For 19 years, St. Peter's provided these support services to community mental health clients. Though it is not currently happening at this church, Rev. Charles Dawkins (pastor of St. Peter's for 10 years) has shared this with other pastors in South Carolina who have initiated this type of program. St. Peter's was honored by the state hospital for their faithfulness inside and outside the church.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1130 St. Peter's Church Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072

For more information about congregation-based mental health services, contact:

Pathways to Promise:
Interfaith Ministries and Prolonged Mental Illness
5400 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63139
314/644-8400

Parish Nursing

The Parish Nurse concept has grown out of Granger Westberg's interest in linking medicine and theology in holistic health care centers in the Chicago area in the 1970s. Nationally, it is estimated that there are over 2,000 practicing parish nurses currently working in Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish congregations in 39 states. Parish Nurses are building partnerships to extend health care from institutions into the community and are creating health ministries within congregations who become new partners in prevention and holistic health care.

Faith Lutheran Church

Most often, a parish nurse program comes about in an individual congregation through the efforts of a non-paid congregation member who is a nurse with a vision of healing. Ruth Daumer came to Faith Lutheran with her husband, the new pastor. From the onset, they shared with the congregation a commitment to creating a parish nurse program.

In 1989, Ruth's first step was to develop a core team of interested health professionals which later expanded to become the Health and Healing Advisory Committee. She wrote a proposal to the church's board of lay ministry to participate in the Northwest Aging Association's Kellogg parish nurse project. It was then approved by the church council and they were on their way. Now, the grant from Kellogg has ended and the program functions on a small church budget.

As the parish nurse, Ruth's role in this model is one of coordinator of health activities and programs. She starts up new programs and supervises and supports the work of the health counselors (2 L.P.N.'s) who carry out the ongoing program services. Together they provide B/P screening at the senior center, special health education classes, monthly perinatal contacts with expectant and new mothers, and bereavement visits. Their newest program is a single parent family ministry to meet the often unrecognized needs of single parents.

Ruth often does her parish nurse work with her 5 year old daughter at her side, extending her family life into her work life. Parish nursing has helped this congregation to appreciate how health fits in a life of faith, both for individuals and for the faith community.

For more information:

Ruth Daumer, R.N., M.S.N, Faith Lutheran Church
606 Kansas Ave S.W.

Orange City, Iowa 51041, 712/737-8727

And Northwest Aging Association Parish Nurse Project
712/262-1775

Parish Nursing

Trinity Medical Center Parish Nurse Program

In 1988, a Lutheran congregation in Moline, Illinois approached a local hospital to pursue an interest in developing a parish nurse program. Today, Trinity Medical Center now partners with 40 congregations through their parish nurse program, expecting more to come on board this fall.

What makes this model of parish nursing unique, is the diversity of denominations represented and the fact that one half of the parish nurses are non-paid. Twelve denominations participate, encompassing different races and geographical settings, extending into western Illinois and eastern Iowa rural communities. The diversity creates a richness of opportunities to learn from others and to discover what is shared versus what divides.

For the nurses, there is a 60 hour orientation covering topics such as: holistic health; working with the older adult; community resources; promoting physical, spiritual, and emotional health; and complimentary therapies. The orientation is provided every fall followed by an annual Anointing Service in January.

As the program has matured, the focus has expanded from the congregation to encompass the community. One of Trinity's parish nurses provides B/P screening at a thrift shop near the congregation she serves. Two of the congregations have partnerships with schools. Another congregation has an after-school program for which their parish nurse coordinates a health component. Health has become a natural part of their community outreach ministries.

For more information:

Janet Griffin, Director
Trinity Medical Center Parish Nurse Program
501 10th Ave
Moline, Ill 61265
309/757-2699

And National Parish Nurse Resource Center,
800/556-5368

Partnerships

Most problems facing our communities today are multifaceted and too large for any one institution, agency, or faith group. Creative collaborative relationships make possible the sharing of experience and resources such as staff, finances, knowledge, political clout, and vision. Coalition building and collaboration are extensions of many faith traditions' call to promote wholeness and to develop community.

Atlanta Interfaith Health

The Interfaith Health Program of The Carter Center received a planning grant to develop a project to enlist the religious community in urban Atlanta in a congregation and community-based approach to health promotion. A part-time program associate director coordinated the planning process.

Planning participants enlisted for this project included religious leaders, public health officials, nursing educators, religious educators, and community health service representatives. Three research assistants worked with the director gathering information about the Atlanta faith community and their health activities.

The nine month planning time allowed for goals and objectives to be realistic and consonant with the vision. Also, participation and input from community representatives contributed to a shared commitment within the Atlanta community. Key relationships with religious leaders and other partners were nurtured.

As a result of the planning process, a model is now being implemented to build coalitions of congregations in low-income areas of Atlanta and to train lay health promoters. Health Ministry Councils and Congregational Health Promoters will engage the congregation and surrounding communities in health assessments and health promotion programs.

For more information contact:

Tom Droege, Ph.D., Associate Director
Interfaith Health Program
The Carter Center of Emory University
One Copenhill
Atlanta, GA 30307
404/420-3846

Partnerships

Bay Area Health Ministries(BAHM)

BAHM provides services to a pool of 15,000 individuals in local churches through their "health cabinets" made up of volunteers (health professionals and other interested lay congregation members). This program began as a community outreach effort of a continuing care retirement community in Cupertino, CA. The director is responsible for assisting participating congregations in the formation of health ministry cabinets and collecting, preparing, and distributing information and materials for the volunteer health ministers.

Sample activities carried out by each congregation include: meeting regularly with the clergy to assess the needs of the members and their community; sharing information and materials with parishioners at a health ministry table or display, on bulletin boards, during social hour, while making home visits, and at forums or presentations, and in newsletters; and health screenings. Health ministers from all the congregations meet together regularly to hear presentations and engage in discussions of pertinent health issues.

BAHM is now working with 10 hospitals and home-health agencies in establishing health ministry/parish nurse programs. The Coalition of Hospital and Agency-based Health Ministry Programs (CHAMP) meets quarterly to share information and support one another.

For more information:

Lois Peacock, RN
Director, Bay Area Health Ministries
70 West Clay St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
415/221-3389

Partnerships

Breath of Life Heart Body and Spirit

This model is an innovative adaptation of a community health outreach program first developed by Johns Hopkins University in collaboration with Clergy United for the Renewal of East Baltimore. The Seventh Day Adventists have built on the Baltimore program and a pilot project in Newark, N.J. to create a national and international community health leadership training program.

The BOLHBS leadership training goal is to equip congregation members with skills for developing community linkages, for identifying health risk factors, and training community health worker volunteers. They also include public health skills in referral linkages, follow-up, advocacy, evaluation, and accessing health care.

The BOLHBS program motto is "Celebrating Community Connections". This unique denominational endeavor takes seriously a mission to create long-lasting, healthier communities for all of God's people. Is it a far fetched dream that other denominations could do the same?

For additional information:

Donna Willis, M.D., M.P.H.
Breath of Life Heart Body & Spirit Training Center
6300 Stringfield Road
Huntsville, AL 35810
205/883-7531

Partnerships

C.A.R.E. Fair (Children's Assistance and Resource Event)

A major barrier preventing limited-income families from receiving community and government assistance is access to various agencies located throughout the city. This large, annual fair brings together direct service providers offering a "one-stop-shop" for health and human services for families with children. The C.A.R.E. Fair is held at a neighborhood high school gymnasium. Services are provided during the evening and weekend over two days just prior to the beginning of the school year.

Over 100 volunteers and 40 agencies provide direct services including Medicaid, physical exams, health screening, food stamps, AFDC, job training, bus passes, WIC, school lunches, child support services, paternity services, birth certificates, housing, and child care. Annually, over 4,000 individuals have been served during C.A.R.E. Fair. The event keeps many families from "falling through the cracks" of bureaucracies.

Each year there is a passing of the torch and a different agency staff take responsibility for organizing the fair; no single agency assumes either leadership or ownership of C.A.R.E. Fair. A manual describing principles and processes for implementing "one stop shopping" has been developed to facilitate the sharing of responsibility over time.

For more information contact:

Silver Darmer
P.O. Box 14821
Tuscon, AZ 85732
602/298-5365

Partnerships

Growing into Life Task Force

This 50-member group is made up of representatives from service agencies, civic groups, neighborhood coalitions, government, schools, the medical community and churches. They meet quarterly to develop activities to increase communication and coordination of services aimed at reducing infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and violence, and to promote the healthy community vision. A part-time coordinator maintains agency linkages, makes referrals, engages in political advocacy, coordinates media relations, mediates among agencies, and supports agency grant writing and program development.

Growing Into Life is the recipient of the Healthcare Forum's International Healthier Community Award for 1995. Innovative programs designed and implemented by the group include an active Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board, a hospital-based Pregnancy Care Line to reduce fetal demises due to preterm labor, a prenatal ID card, IMPACT (a community-policing program for at-risk youth), and COMPACT (community police referring pregnant women for prenatal care).

For more information:

Karen Popouchado
7 Burgandy Rd.
Aiken, SC 29801
803/648-8520

Partnerships

Health & Faith Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

There are 2.7 million persons in Los Angeles County with no health insurance and poor access to health care. The number of people without available comprehensive health screening and health promotion programs is even higher.

This program established a formal partnership with health and religious institutions designed to address the lack of access from both sides: health providers' lack of access to hard-to-reach populations, and individuals with limited access to health services. The coalition develops and fosters self-sustaining volunteer health committees in faith communities and these communities are linked to hospitals, community clinics, and community based health promotion programs.

The Coalition is comprised of the Greater Hollywood Health Partnership, which includes 22 member congregations representing Catholics, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Methodists, and Muslims; the Southern Area Clergy Council, which represents various Christian churches with African-American and Latino members; and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

For more information:

Joni Goodnight
Greater Hollywood Health Partnership
1300 N. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
213/913/4978

Partnerships

Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis

A diverse representation of faith groups has come together in St. Louis "to cooperatively promote and provide opportunities for actions and advocacy on social justice issues, and to promote and provide opportunities for understanding and acceptance of our similarities and diversities".

Interfaith Partnership programming targets needs whose underlying causes are larger than any one neighborhood and the resources of any one denomination. Through a variety of partnering models, Interfaith Partnership programming challenges the root causes of these problems. Using an integrated health model, Partnership programming draws from the strengths of the faith traditions of its participants. Programming is organized around volunteer workteams that are the backbone of their efforts and require a variety of forms: primary administration, joint administration, and liaisons.

Most notable are the Partnership's efforts to create opportunities for dialogue and bridge building and shared visions among diverse faith groups. One dimension of this is the Congregational Health Ministries Workbook designed to assist congregations in reclaiming their legacies of health, healing, and wholeness by strengthening educational opportunities, and acting upon basic issues of health, healing, and wholeness from their faith perspective. The workbook is used as a tool through which study, reflection, and action on health issues can be stimulated.

For more information:

Barbara Russell, Executive Director
Linda Kessler, Program Director
418 East Adams Ave
Kirkwood, MO 63122,
314/821-3808

Partnerships

Springfield Community Health Promotion Parish Project

The Springfield project is a coalition involving churches, families, the health department and the state university to engage a range of resources in a collaborative way. The program focus is on prevention and the incidence and prevalence of health conditions which primarily affect economically deprived older adults and children.

Together this coalition offers the moral authority and imperative of the church, the participation of the University of Massachusetts School of Nursing, and the Springfield Public Health Department's overall mandate for the health of its citizens. Services provided have been community health education, referrals to health services and workshops, transportation assistance, visits to the elderly and counseling programs.

The project was designed to determine the effectiveness of community churches, acting through their parishioners, in promoting health behaviors among parish members and in the community. A Parish Health Promoter training manual was developed. Fifteen pastors, one emir and 60 parishioners called Parish Health Promoters (PHP) were trained to form teams to work on health issues in the community.

An evaluation has been conducted to assess effectiveness of the training programs, perception of the program by the PHP, community impact awareness of the project and pastors and city governments' perception of the project, measurement of church activities arising from the project, knowledge of health promoting behaviors, and a supportive environment.

For more information: Deloris G. Williams, R.N., PhD or
Frances Hubbard, B.S., M.S.
Springfield Health Department
1414 State Street
Springfield, Mass 01109
413/787-6710 or 787-6755

Partnerships

Ten Parish Project

Serving as fiscal agent, the Intergenerational Health Center at Christ the Good Shepherd received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation in 1991 to establish health centers in 10 California communities. Each health center's purpose is to demonstrate that churches can be dynamic forces within the community to improve the health and wholeness of individuals of all ages.

This is done through an assortment of services such as counseling, healing services, resource libraries, health education, movement workshops, pain management, stress management, acupressure, parenting classes, substance abuse counseling, women's support groups, C.P.R. classes, referrals to appropriate agencies, nursing home consultations, massage therapy, nutrition counseling, and a trained peer counselor youth support phone line. At each center, emphasis is placed on inclusiveness - serving individuals of all ages, economic levels, ethnic backgrounds and religious traditions.

One service, the South Bay Youth Line (SBYL), is centered at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. It is an innovative youth phone line staffed by youths and adults who have been trained by professional counselors. SBYL's focus is to provide solid professional training for youths who are interested in helping other youths, and to provide aid, comfort and direction to young people in emotional distress. These trained youth work in the community to provide resources for all young people including multi-cultural, multi-lingual and the physically challenged.

The Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics in Chicago has been evaluating the Ten Parish Project and assisting participants in their goal of developing a model that can be used by churches nationwide at the end of this three year project.

For more information:

Janet Keefey, Project Director
1550 Meridian Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
408/266-8062

Partnerships

Ten Point Coalition

The Ten Point Coalition is an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders working to mobilize the Christian community around issues affecting black youth--especially those at-risk for violence, drug abuse, and other destructive behaviors.

The Ten Point Coalition evolved out of a working paper initially conceived by clergy leaders. Their dialogue broadened to include drug dealers, gang members, streetworkers, theologians, seminarians, pastors, and lay leaders. In that same period, the individual churches began implementing several of the programs suggested in their Ten Point Proposal.

Work done in collaboration with other community and church groups includes "Take Back the Street" Crusade, weeklong street services, cleanup, support for neighborhood crime watch, and dialogue with local drug dealers; the first Police and Youth Leadership Awards Ceremony; Citywide Clergy Against Violence, an ecumenical and interfaith mediation of disturbance at South Boston High School; Father's Day March, a church-based mobilization of Black Christian men around the issue of defending Black Youth; and a Youth Panel Organizer mentoring program.

The Coalition facilitates collaborations between churches with programs in place, and helps to train those who are willing to enter into new areas of ministry, including gang intervention programs, court advocacy programs, urban missionary programs, school partnership programs, community health center partnerships, and counseling and other services to address domestic abuse. For pastors and lay people, they offer training and sponsor a Friday night street ministry in an urban setting.

For more information: Rev. Dr. Ray A. Hammond
Bethel AME Church
Boston, Mass
617/524-4311

Partnerships

The Greater Hollywood Health Partnership (GHHP)

The Partnership is a large and broad collaboration of multi-cultural faith communities, community organizations, a full-service hospital, senior centers, schools of nursing, the Department of Health Services Of Los Angeles County, and volunteers from the partner groups.

The program is administered by the Director of Health and Faith Partnerships who recruits, hires, educates, and supervises Partnership Nurses, health educators, volunteers and hospital employees who work with health committees within congregations. Eight Partnership Nurses, employed by Queen of Angeles-Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, are currently working in six of the 16 of the 26 congregations. Other congregations are in the process of developing their visions of health ministry and a health committee to support their vision.

The GHHP model creates a structure for bringing health screening and preventive services into the community and actively engages the community in disease prevention and health promotion. Recent congregational activities have been immunization and flu clinics, health fairs, health screenings in schools, educational seminars (in English, Spanish, Korean, and Armenian) on nutrition, depression, CPR, violence prevention, AIDS, cancer prevention and detection, disaster preparedness, Durable Power of Attorney, training volunteers on visitation, dental care, and others. Networking and educational dinner meetings are held each month for the partners. Seminars on beginning health ministries are offered twice a year. Funding is provided by hospital support, foundation grants and private contributions.

For more information contact:

Joni Goodnight
Greater Hollywood Health Partnership
1300 N. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
213/913-4978

Substance Abuse

One of three families is affected by drug abuse which underlies many of our nation's health problems. The most prominent are homicides, motor vehicle accidents, and poor perinatal outcomes. Faith and a sense of hope and meaning in life can influence whether a person will be troubled by the use of alcohol and other drugs or will avoid the trap of addiction and at-risk living. Congregations have the opportunity to take an important role in demonstrating faithful action in reviving hope and participating in the prevention and facilitating the treatment of substance abuse.

Jackson County Alcohol and Drug Prevention Partnership

Six rural churches received funds to develop, implement, and evaluate drug prevention programs for their respective church communities. A Health Advisory Council works with each church in planning, implementing and evaluating the programs. The Community Partnership Project aims to decrease alcohol and other drug abuse in the community by reducing environmental risk factors and increasing individual resilience factors.

Each church established a health committee composed of auxiliary leaders and youth representatives. Representative church leaders and pastors participated in training activities which focused on alcohol and other drug knowledge, community development and program planning. Training activities were guided by materials and manuals developed by the project staff. The general action plan includes competitions and cooperative activities between and among churches, recognition for excellence programs for youth, mentoring and parenting, peer resistance activities, intergenerational activities, Health/Drug Awareness Sundays, training activities for the church committee and pastors, and summer and after school programs.

For more information:

Mary Sutherland, Ed.D., M.P.H.
2639 North Monroe St., Suite 145B
Tallahassee, FL 32303
904/488-0055

Substance Abuse

Revival of Hope

Revival of Hope is a Christian education program for substance abuse prevention. The Pan-Methodist Coalition developed a process and resources for congregations to overcome the denial that a problem exists or that anything can be done about the problem.

The process has three steps described as the AAA concept of Assessment, Awareness, and Action:

Encourage congregations to ASSESS the needs and resources in their pew, pulpits, and communities related to substance abuse, thereby providing a refuge for recovering addicts, and nonjudgemental places for people seeking help;

Endeavor to raise the AWARENESS of congregations to the systemic (economic, racial, political) and spiritual (ritualistic, moral, idolatrous) nature of substance abuse;

Empower and equip congregations for ACTION in response to crises in their communities by cooperating with neighborhood groups, schools, city agencies, and other religious bodies.

Resources include age-level curriculum, training materials, and a clearinghouse for religious curricula, programs, literature, and other resources to assist the church in this ministry.

For more information:

Raymond Richmond, Executive Director
Revival of Hope, National Pan-Methodist Coalition
P.O. Box 18890
Jackson State University, Mississippi 39217
601/968-2353
Materials: 1-800-672-1789 (Cokesbury Publishing Co.)

Substance Abuse

Wings of Hope Anti-Drug Program

Several years ago, Dr. Joseph Lowery, President of the SCLC, recognized the need for churches to become more involved in the War on Drugs. In April of 1989, the SCLC developed an anti-drug program called "Wings of Hope". This program is designed to create coalitions and partnerships between churches and community groups to address the drug problem in local neighborhoods. Since the inception of Wings of Hope which began in Atlanta, the program has been implemented in twelve different cities throughout the U.S.

The SCLC Wings of Hope Anti-Drug Program provides community organizing against violence and drugs for more than 12 African American communities across this nation. Since the drug epidemic has its greatest destructive impact in poor African American neighborhoods, the SCLC, through its leadership, has formulated a program model that is designed to reduce the demand of drugs, revitalize the community and to help "Stop the Killing/End the Violence".

SCLC program staff assist communities in developing neighborhood coalitions who in partnership with the community, develop programs such as mentoring and family adoption. The staff also provide community-based training around issues that empower the community to address chemical dependency. In Atlanta, SCLC has organized three neighborhoods for coalition building, mentorship development, family adoption and substance abuse training.

In October of 1990, the White House selected the SCLC Wings of Hope Anti-Drug Program as the 284th Point of Light for the nation.

For more information contact:

Rev. Horace L. Thurman, Director
SCLC Wings of Hope
334 Auburn Ave
Atlanta, GA 30303
404/758-1517

Tobacco

More than 400,000 premature deaths occur each year in the United States from tobacco-related causes. Over the past decade, there has been virtually no decline in smoking rates among teens. The most effective preventive programs are those which are community-wide and combine education and public policy approaches. Congregations, as natural support networks, can be very effective in smoking-cessation interventions and prevention efforts.

Breathe Free

A Seventh Day Adventist church in inner-city Atlanta recently partnered with a local public health clinic in sponsoring a smoking-cessation seminar. Volunteers from the church used an eight-session curriculum (Breathe Free) developed at Loma Linda University .

The sessions were held at the public health clinic in the evening and were open to community members who used the clinic as well as members of the congregation. Sixteen persons participated in this program. During one session, a mock funeral, complete with a miniature coffin, a minister, grieving family and friends, and a singer was presented by members of the church to epitomize what years of smoking can do. Afterwards, the group was asked to put all their smoking paraphernalia into the coffin to signify the "death" of the smoking habit.

This curriculum is available through the denomination's health materials catalogue.

"The Health Connection"
55 West Oak Ridge Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
800/548-8700

Tobacco

African-American Church-Based Pilot Smoking-Cessation Project

This program was born when the American Lung Association (ALA) collaborated with a group of clergy in Baltimore (C.U.R.E.) in an NHLBI funded demonstration project to promote and implement smoking-cessation programs in African-American communities and churches. There, local ALA affiliates worked with churches in their areas to deliver the smoking-cessation component of the CURE project, "One Day at a Time".

The program is now being implemented in 15 pilot areas around the country. ALA works with local churches through project initiation, training, and implementation. A church covenant is signed during the initiation phase followed by the organization of a health ministry within each church.

Each church creates a name for their program. Some examples of project names are "Overcomers Ministries", B.R.E.A.T.H (Baptists Recognize that Everything About the Temple is Holy), Renewed Hope, Breath Easy, and Choose Life. Designated spiritual support group leaders are trained by Lung Association staff to facilitate the smoking cessation support sessions.

Stage 2 of the project commenced January 16, 1995 with the addition of 12 pilot sites. These sites will further refine the program based on evaluation information and consensus conference findings from Stage 1. During Stage 2 Local Lung Associates will enhance strategies for recruitment of smokers and volunteers. The format is flexible and designed to meet the needs of each congregation and promote program ownership. It is adaptable for use in other communities and across faith groups.

For more information:

Your local American Lung Association
Or National project staff:
Sharon Jaycox
212/315-8700 ext. 717

Tobacco

Stop Smoking Services (SSS)

This program grew out of a church-based retreat concept of support for smoking cessation. It began as a ministry of a Presbyterian Church in Michigan. Ten years later, the program now exists independently and is supported by contributions from private donations of individuals and churches.

Services include a network of ongoing support groups and a biannual training for facilitators. The work and training is coordinated by a part-time director. Participants come from both congregations and the community.

Stop Smoking Services support groups meet weekly at churches throughout West Michigan. Support group facilitators are parishioners who have successfully quit smoking. They are sponsored by their churches at one-day training sessions, where they learn the skills necessary to facilitate a support groups.

For more information:

Stop Smoking Services
Cyn Gielow, Director
47 Jefferson, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(O) 616/456-1456 (H) 616/940-2752

Violence Prevention

Violence is very much on everyone's mind. Violence happens in our homes and on our streets. Very few persons are isolated from violence anymore. There are many ways to make a difference and many circumstances leading to violence. Most of the programs described in this booklet will reduce the incidence of violent behavior. The following descriptions are about ways that congregations can be involved specifically in violence- prevention activities.

Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker Program: Caring Congregations

An Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker program is an interfaith endeavor linking local religious congregations with professional social workers to help satisfy the unmet needs of at-risk families so they can better care for their children, thereby preventing abuse and neglect.

The social service professionals relating to these troubled families voluntarily participate in order to funnel help from people of faith who desire to reach out in a tangible way to families of vulnerable children. When a caseworker notices a client family's important needs not being met through federal, state, or other local assistance efforts, he or she asks for congregational help. The local congregation contracts to find volunteer liaisons who regularly contact the social worker, advise the congregation of items needed, and facilitate the need being met.

A manual has been developed for congregations and social service agencies to become involved in child abuse prevention. It outlines the steps for creating an Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker program. Examples are given of the various forms used in making possible this imaginative connection between caring congregations and professional caregivers.

For more information:

Susan-Carol Oliver, Program Manager
Lutheran Social Services
2001 19th Street
Sacramento, CA 95818-1618
916/442-8200

Violence Prevention

Keeping It Good In The Hood Project

The Southern Area Clergy Council (SACC), a coalition of 75 African-American churches, came into being to deal with the growing gang problems in black communities in Southern L.A. In response to anticipated violence after the Rodney King verdicts in 1992 and 1993, the SACC created the "Keeping It Good In The Hood" project. Billboards were put up and flyers distributed door-to-door in order to create a pervasive, peace mind-set.

The "Keeping It Good In The Hood" project has grown into more than an anti-violence campaign. This community empowerment ministry now has employment and entrepreneurial training, community health education programs such as lead poisoning awareness, a year-round sports league for 200 youths, 12-step programs, construction training, feeding programs, and activities to encourage academic excellence. Financial support comes from the churches, grants, and local businesses.

"We've come to the conclusion that if we're going to make our communities a better place, we have to make it better because we're the ones that live here," said Rev. Romie Lilly, executive director of the SACC.

For more information:

Rev. Romie Lilly, Executive Director
Southern Area Clergy Council
402 E. El Segundo Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90061
310/769-0522

Violence Prevention

Violence Prevention Project, Health Promotion Program for Urban Youth

The Violence Prevention Project is a multi-institutional, community-based initiative designed to reduce the incidence of interpersonal violence among adolescents, along with the associated social and medical hazards. The Project has four components: curriculum development, community-based prevention education, clinical treatment services, and media campaign.

One objective of the program is to train providers in diverse community settings in a violence-prevention curriculum targeted to adolescents. A community-based component was developed to reinforce nonviolent options learned in the classroom. During the pilot phase two community educators implemented and coordinated the community-based program. Within the two communities, approximately 750 people from the following types of settings have participated in prevention education training: schools (elementary, middle, high, community, and alternative), multi-service centers, boys and girls clubs, recreation programs, housing developments, juvenile detention facilities, churches, and neighborhood health centers.

This project, which was designed as three-year pilot program and is now supported by the city, is seen as a leader in violence prevention both in Boston and nationally. What has been done within this community could be replicated by coalitions or interfaith groups in other locations. Schools and congregations would be ideal partners in violence-prevention initiatives.

For more information:

Violence Prevention Project
Health Promotion Program for Urban Youth
1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Women's Health

Approximately 80 percent of the membership of African-American churches is women. In most congregations, women are very involved in committee and service work vital to the life of the congregation. Social structure and economic changes in our society have led to greater demands on women and, consequently to poor health outcomes. Both workplaces and congregations have opportunities to promote health and reinforce and support healthy behavior choices for women.

Witness Project

Arkansas Cancer Research Center staff have been working with women in rural churches to increase awareness of breast and cervical cancer detection and screening participation. Eight African-American women breast and cervical cancer survivors have been trained as "Witnesses". In teams with lay health educators they visit churches and community groups to share their stories, education, and resources for mammography.

This project has received funding and support from the State Health Department, the American Cancer Society, the CDC, Avon, and a private foundation. The first research phase has just been completed. Training materials are being developed for program replication. The Research Center hopes to expand their work into 21 new counties in East Arkansas. The concept of "witnessing" could be used in efforts to reach people with other disease prevention information.

For more information:

Deborah Erwin
Arkansas Cancer Research Center
4301 West Markham Slot 623-1
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501/686-8801