

LAKEWOOD'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2
October 1, 2008

Lakewood's Promise encourages building the character and competence of Lakewood's Youth through the Five Promises.

- **Caring Adults**
- **Safe Places**
- **Healthy Start**
- **Effective Education**
- **Opportunities to Give Back**

Lakewood's Promise Executive Board

Cameron Boyd, Student
Lakes High School
Alice Bush,
General Services Director
City of Lakewood
David Flentge, CEO
Community Health Care
Andrea Gernon, Co-Chair
Lakewood Community
Collaboration
Carole Jacobs, Director
Clover Park School District
Michele Johnson, Chancellor
Pierce College
Ria Johnson, Student
Youth Representative
Joseph Lehman,
Parish Administrator
St. Francis Cabrini Church
Debbie LeBeau,
Superintendent
Clover Park School District
Carol Owens, Coordinator
Governor's Council on Drug Abuse
Tony Robinson,
Vice-President
Clover Park Technical College
Debbi Saint,
Regional Manager
Franciscan Health Systems
Claudia Thomas,
Councilmember
City of Lakewood
Eric Renz, Executive Director
Lakewood's Promise



Keeping Lakewood's Promise

Promising Children a Healthy Start

This edition of *Lakewood's Promise Newsletter* focuses on the Third Promise: providing a Healthy Start. All children need and deserve healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthful habits. These result from regular health check-ups and needed treatment, good nutrition and exercise, health skills and knowledge, and positive adult role models.

Leaders in Washington State and Pierce county have created laws and programs assuring every child has access and funding for the health care they need. Still children come to Head Start, ECEAP and kindergarten without dental care, im-

munizations or treatment of correctable early childhood diseases.

Lakewood's Promise believes that informing all caregivers of children about the various health resources available will lead to a healthier community.

The *LP Newsletter* is an invitation for you to get involved for the sake of Lakewood's young people and our entire community.

For more information and opportunities to become involved, go to www.lakewoodspromise.org.

What Do Vaccinations Do?

Vaccination is one of the most important ways a parent can protect their child's health. Vaccines are one of history's most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing serious disease and death. Diseases that were once commonplace, such as polio, measles, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria, and rubella are now only distant memories for most Americans.

Most of today's parents have never seen these diseases and the suffering they can cause so the parents are less concerned about the need for immunization compared to other parental priorities. However, these diseases are not

diseases of the past. They are still with us.

Low immunization coverage is an issue that impacts the entire community. Community resources, and more importantly, community participation is essential to increasing immunization coverage. A decision to vaccinate a child is a decision to not only protect that individual child, but to also protect the community by reducing the spread of disease to those who have not been vaccinated either by choice or because of medical reasons, such as children with leukemia.

It is never too late to catch up, even if your child is behind sched-

ule. Immunizations are OK even if your child has a minor illness. The vaccine will be effective and will not make the child's illness worse.

We are fortunate in this country to have free and low-cost vaccination programs and the ability to protect children from 14 diseases through immunizing them on time before they turn two years old.

Love them.

Protect them.

Vaccinate your child

by age two.

These are all our children.

We will profit by,

or pay for,

whatever they

become.

James Baldwin, author

Financial Partners

- City of Lakewood
- Franciscan Health System
- Columbia State Bank
- Harborstone Credit Union
- Mountain View Funeral Home
- Rainier Pacific Bank
- Wal*Mart
- Clover Park Rotary
- Rotary Club of Lakewood
- Lakewood First Lions
- Lakewood Knights Lions Club
- Clover Park Kiwanis Club

and many individuals

Apple Health Is the Kids' Door To Healthcare

Apple Health for Kids is a new Washington state initiative that combines a variety of funding and organizations to find, insure and refer children for healthcare. In Pierce County the work is led by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) in a strong partnership with Franciscan Health Care, Community Health Care, the Consortium for Health Informa-

tion Access (CHIA) and many provider clinics. The Milgard Family Foundation is funding two outreach worker positions, including Lakewood's.

Every child who lives in Washington can be enrolled for health insurance for medical, dental, vision and mental health services, without regard to their health, wealth or citizenship

status. This is an investment in stronger future education outcomes and a stronger future economy. Children of families with higher incomes will have a chance to "buy in" with moderate monthly premiums. Call 1-866-796-6451 for eligibility screening.

In addition to Apple Health, the Oral Health Program of TPCHD has over 50 clinics enrolled to accept an enhanced Medicaid rate (still below cost of service) for children. Caregivers can call the Pierce County Dental Care Hotline at 253-798-6044 or 800-992-2456, ext. 6044, to find a clinic and receive enrollment information.

Added information is available online at <http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/applehealth>



New Hope From a New Task Force

The Healthy Start Task Force is the next organizing effort of Lakewood's Promise, gathering providers around the third Promise, a Healthy Start. All children need healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthful habits.

The challenge is informing and convincing mothers and other caregivers that all children can access health care without jeopardy to themselves or family members, no matter what the family's economic condition.

Who will inform them?

Landlords of low-income properties. Utilities with customer information handouts. Booths at community events. Food bank distribution volunteers. The Lakewood Police Department and Lakewood Fire Department. Clover Park School District. These partners in our community with likely contact with low-income, uninsured families can all become agents delivering the keys to a Healthy Start.

After an initial information sharing meeting, using information from the City of Lakewood

Human Service Needs Assessment from the summer of 2008, the task force will create the materials and network needed to assure that children's caregivers are informed and encouraged to get children checkups, illness care, immunizations and information. The Healthy Start Task Force will also monitor service access for ongoing assurance that all barriers are overcome.

For more information, call Eric Renz at 253-302-1698.