

HHI At-a-Glance

Nov – Dec 2010

Southeast Region

The theme was “You Won’t See Me using Tobacco.” La Tiffany Henderson, Americorps Volunteer, and Kim Hooks, Community Health Nurse Specialist, provided a tobacco prevention presentation for students at Park Avenue Elementary in Stuttgart during their 21st Century After-School Program. There were approximately 70 students ranging from first thru fourth grade and ten staff members that participated in hands on activities such as Tobacco Clever Catch Ball, Mr. Dip Lip, and Gross Mouth. Students were instructed using the Get Real About Tobacco Curriculum.



Southwest Region

Health is so very important and not always thought of until we lose it so DASH Coalition organized a World AIDS Day event held on December 1st at the **Fordyce** Civic Center. Along with enjoying refreshments and Christmas carols, a very important disease was brought to light for local residents. This event was designed to “Celebrate Life” by decorating a Christmas tree with red and white ribbons. Red ribbons represent all those living with HIV/AIDS and the white ribbons represent those who have died from the disease.



There are 524 people in southwest Arkansas who have HIV/AIDS and 254 people who have died from it. A lot more have never gotten tested because of the fear and stigma that is associated with it. Because of this, the event also hosted free testing with results available in approximately 20 minutes. A prayer and candle ceremony was held for all of the children who were innocently born with this disease. This “Celebrate Life” event was designed to emphasize the epidemic in Arkansas. There have been 2,130 deaths from AIDS and 5,810 Arkansas residents are currently living with HIV/AIDS.

Northeast Region

Craighead Co—On Saturday, November 6th the Cardiology Associates Foundation (CAF) provided free health screenings to approximately 60 members of

Hometown Health Improvement



the First Baptist Church in Jonesboro. As a follow up to the African American Women’s Health Conference, CAF provided cholesterol, blood pressure, EKG, BMI, and glucose screenings free of charge. Amy Howell, Craighead County LHUA, was also present to offer flu shots.

Central Region

The winners of the annual poster contest that is coordinated with the **Lonoke County** schools were announced and published in the five local community newspapers. The coalition also presented information to parents, teachers and administrators at the Cabot school board meeting. The poster contest and community calendar is done in collaboration with the Lonoke County schools to promote physical activity, nutrition, tobacco, and other healthy choices to improve overall health.

Perry County coalition continues to collaborate with the Bigelow School District who is a Coordinated School Health site. Through the SPIF-SIG grant the coalition continues to work on targeting underage drinking in the county. They are preparing to launch their Facebook page in December. The Facebook page will be “Perry County Spit Tobacco Stinks”

Northwest Region

In **Newton County**, a health fair is planned to be held at Jasper School to promote healthier living without tobacco use. The Newton county Times gives 500+ newspapers to area schools every week. Hometown Health continues to try and find dental services for the county. The Newton County Health Unit Staff has spent this year making a difference in their health. A total of 466 pounds have been lost by 12 members thus far in 2010. The unit usually has a potluck holiday lunch but in the spirit of giving, this year the decision was made to bring food items for donation to the Christian Food Room at Jasper in lieu of the lunch.

In **Van Buren County**, City Park with the skate area made smoke free. Working on Growing Healthy Communities grant that was awarded. TEA Coalition ads still running on KTHV.