

# Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

## LIVINGSTON FACTS

- In March of 2010, 13.3% of county residents were unemployed. In 2008, only 6.6% of Livingston County residents were unemployed.
- There has been a 355% increase in the number of children insured by MICHild from 1999 – 2005.
- In Livingston, 6.5% of residents are having a very hard time paying for basic needs and 27% indicated it is somewhat hard.

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## What's New in Livingston?

The Livingston County HSCB is pleased to highlight the arrival of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Livingston County program. LACASA, a local agency dedicated to ending domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse is responsible for developing, implementing, and directing this new program in Livingston County.

The CASA program is designed to train local individuals to advocate for abused and neglected chil-

dren in the court system to make sure the children don't get lost in the legal and social service systems. The program uses a highly specialized national curriculum to train the volunteers. The volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives!

LACASA was overwhelmed by the outstanding number of local

volunteers that wanted to get involved with the project and were able to get enough individuals to pioneer the project without even advertising. The swearing-in of the thirteen trained CASA volunteers will take place on January 25, 2011. For more information about the CASA program please contact the project coordinator Sara Applegate at 517-548-1350.



1) <http://www.casaforchildren.org/>

## Collaboration Works

The Livingston Homeless Continuum of Care (HCC) is gearing up for the 4th annual Community Connect event scheduled for January 29, 2011 from 9am-2pm at

9455 Hilton Road, Brighton. Year after year this event shows what true collaboration can accomplish. HSCB committees, public and nonprofit organizations, individuals and the faith community come together at this event to

provide one-stop shopping for health and human services programming while offering items like hot meals, hair cuts, legal consultation, clothing, family photographs, and much more. Last year over 700 residents attended. Please call 810-494-4056 for more information.





Homeless families in need during the cold winter season can get help at the annual Community Connect.

*“This is my first time asking for any assistance. The help I have received today was more than expected and such a blessing.”*

-2010 Community Connect Guest



Livingston ladies enjoying their local senior center

## HSCB Groups Hard at Work

The Community Needs Assessment Committee of the Human Services Collaborative is pleased to share the results of the local Behavioral Risk Factors Survey (BRFS) with the community. The BRFS surveyed over 700 households regarding their health and wellness habits. Administrative data has been reviewed and synthesized by the Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA) and a full report of the survey findings is available to the community.

The BRFS includes questions pertaining to medical check-ups, nutrition

choices, alcohol and nicotine use, screen time, literacy, ability to meet basic needs, physical activity level, sleeping habits, and chronic disease data.

In past years the BRFS has given Livingston the tools to identify and spotlight risky behaviors as well as protective activity trends within the community. The HSCB and many other local collaboratives have utilized BRFS data when establishing their workgroup activities and goals as well as when they apply for local, state and federal funding.

Since 2004 when the last BRFS was released, the

HSCB has forged several groups and committees in response to survey findings. For example, the Basic Needs Workgroup of the HSCB was developed to assist the community in meeting the most fundamental needs of residents. The substance abuse treatment and prevention workgroups have produced awareness campaigns and training based on the tobacco and alcohol trends of the community. Please email [lbeaudry@cmhliv.org](mailto:lbeaudry@cmhliv.org) for a copy of the report.



## Dollars to Watch...



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the availability of additional funding to help eligible low-income families meet their home energy needs, bringing the total

made available since October 1 to \$3.9 billion. These funds will go to states, tribes and territories under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and are available under the

terms of the latest continuing resolution. Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency.

**For more information, go to:**  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap>

# Livingston County Community Taking Action



The Livingston Community Prevention Project has received funding from the Washtenaw Community Health Organization and the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health Office of Drug Control to operate a Family and Friends Support Group through the Livingston Family Center.

This support group provides practical education and guidance for those struggling with

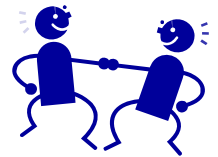
the substance abuse or addiction of a young person in their lives and is facilitated by highly trained local professionals.

The group focuses on confronting some of the difficult issues families and friends close to someone who's addicted face such as guilt, shame, isolation, frustration, enabling behaviors and overall offer information specific to this unique population,

Livingston County has been deeply impacted by the drug related deaths of several young people in the last 18 months. The Family and Friends Support Group is one of many initiatives being rolled out by the Livingston Community Prevention Project to help the community respond to substance

use related concerns in Livingston County. For more information about the Livingston Community Prevention Project please contact Karen at 810-225-9550.

The Livingston Family Center offers this group on the second Tuesday of each month and there is no cost for attending. The Family and Friends Support Group is offered at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Adult Faith Formation Center located at 710 Rickett Road Brighton, MI 48116 from 7:00pm-8:30pm.



# Livingston Stories of Hope

Livingston County is fortunate to have a strong and vibrant local Office of Veterans Affairs that has done incredible work in 2010. The office, located inside the 2300 E. Grand River Howell, MI East Complex Suite 109 offers services and assistance to veterans, their families and survivors in filing claims for all federal, state, county and other benefits to which they may

be entitled. The department also administers the County operation of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and County Veterans Relief Fund to assist veterans and their dependants with financial emergencies, and the County Veterans Burial Fund to help provide an honorable burial for veterans and their spouses. The assistance being provided by the Office of Veterans Affairs has allowed

Livingston County to be able to better serve and meet the needs of over 400 service men and women and their dependent family members throughout the year of 2010. In addition, the Livingston County Veterans Affairs office has also helped to ease the load of other Livingston County health and human service agencies by servicing this unique population. Livingston residents are invited to call the Office of Veterans Affairs, for an appointment and to determine the documents that will be necessary for certain services at 517-546-633.





## Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

2280 E. Grand River Ave  
Howell, Michigan  
48843



Phone: 517-552-7140

Fax: 517-546-1300

E-mail: [lbeaudry@cmhliv.org](mailto:lbeaudry@cmhliv.org)

*Ensuring a system of support for members of our community.*

### What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Lindsay Beaudry at [lbeaudry@cmhliv.org](mailto:lbeaudry@cmhliv.org).

## Upcoming Events in Livingston

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

Community Connect will take place on January 29, 2011 from 9am-2pm at 9455 Hilton Road Brighton, Michigan. Services will include countless health and human service booths, flu shots, legal assistance, hair cuts, food, clothing, personal care bags, family photographs, and a fresh served meal.

The Area Agency on Aging I-B (AAA I-B) will be holding the Second Annual Judith J. Wahlberg Memorial Lecture on February 10, 2011 at the Troy Community Center (3179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI 48083). The lecture is dedicated to enhancing professional development opportunities for those concerned about services and programs for older adults who are aging in the community. Cost to attend the lecture is \$35 per person or \$30 for groups of two or more. Continuing education credits are pending approval for nursing and social work. For additional information about the Judith J. Wahlberg Lecture or other trainings offered by the AAA I-B please visit [www.aaalib.com](http://www.aaalib.com).

Livingston County will be conducting its mandated Point In Time Count (PIT) on January 26, 2011. The PIT count gives the community the opportunity to get a snap shot of the homeless population in the county and is linked to state and federal funding. Contact Lindsay at 517-552-7140 for more information on how to make sure everybody counts!

OLHSA's 21st Annual Walk For Warmth Mark Your Calendar For Saturday, February 12, 2011-OLHSA's 21st Annual Walk for Warmth fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center, 9525 Highland Road. Registration for the event begins at 8:30 a.m. with the kick off at 9:00. Walk for Warmth is OLHSA's largest fundraiser and 100 percent of the money raised goes directly to helping low-income families and seniors citizens in Livingston County keep their heat turned on during the cold winter months. With your help, last year OLHSA was able to assist 111 households with heat related emergencies. This family event has activities for everyone. Jazzercise, music, food, clowns and much more.

To support Walk for Warmth you can sponsor the event and/or form a team to walk on Feb. 12. For more information or for sponsorship or pledge forms, please call the OLHSA office at (517)546-8500 or visit our website at [www.olhsa.org/walk4warmth](http://www.olhsa.org/walk4warmth).