



# CMCHC

## Bulletin Board

central massachusetts center for

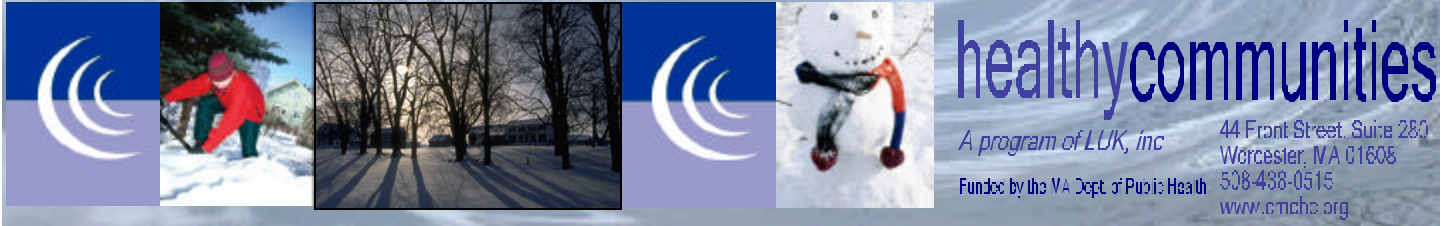
### healthycommunities

A program of LUK, inc

44 Front Street, Suite 280  
Worcester, MA 01605

Funded by the MA Dept. of Public Health

508-438-0515  
www.cmchc.org



## Letter from the Director



## Winter 2004

Dear Community Partners,

Winter 2004 brings us to our second anniversary as the Central MA Center for Healthy Communities. It's so clear to all of the CMCHC staff that we would not be where we are today without the great collaborative work that's happening in communities throughout Central Massachusetts. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to all who have welcomed us at their tables as they strive to create healthier communities and to reduce youth access to alcohol and other drugs. We are humbled by the commitment and passion of those engaged in this work across our region. We are blessed to be involved in meaningful work that creates environments that support the development of healthy youth and civically engaged residents.

I've been fortunate to be a part of the development of one

such exciting initiative in the Greater Worcester area, Common Pathways. Common Pathways is built upon the principles of the worldwide healthy communities movement, and sets its foundation strongly in the belief that in diversity we find great strength. Not simply the diversity of culture, race or ethnicity that is often discussed, but a bringing together of all the very different and diverse threads that weave together to create a community.

I'm reminded of this quote by ethicist Jerome Nathanson: "The price of the democratic way of life is a growing appreciation of people's differences, not merely as tolerable, but as the essence of a rich and rewarding human experience." In our times, embracing diversity is not a choice, but an imperative. We truly are all in the same boat, and each affects the other whether

consciously or not. Bringing together diverse sectors for community dialogue and meaningful data will help us build the road map for progress in our community. In coordinating and aligning our diverse efforts, we build upon our strengths and make best use of our resources. In this way we build a community that weaves together its greatest assets for the common good of all.

-Dodi

### Inside This Issue:

<b>Diversity in Local Coalitions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Diversity Materials in the Resource Center</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Diversity in Action</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>College Consortium</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>4</b>

## Diversity in Local Coalitions

YOUTH F1RST  
presents  
Campaign for Youth



As diverse as communities are, so are coalitions. One coalition that includes every aspect of a community is YOUTH F1RST. Comprised of youth, youth-serving agencies, churches, neighborhood organizations, parents, advocates and other stakeholders, it has come together in response to the significant and disproportionate effect that state and local budget cuts have had on local youth programming, as well

as the recent and alarming rise in youth violence.

Our children, families and communities are vulnerable today. With a rise in single-parent households and as more two-parent families enter the workforce to keep up with rising costs; young people spend more time unsupervised. Studies show that after school hours and summers are the times during which youth are most likely to experiment and engage in risky behaviors. Moreover, opportunities for youth to find safe, supportive environments to do homework and engage in positive, structured, developmentally appropriate activities are severely limited for middle and high school students. This age group also needs programs that provide job training, internships, college and career planning.

After-school and summer programming provide good recreational and educational programs for our youth and communities. Youth need opportunities to strengthen

and reiterate what they are learning in school, as well as to have fun and socialize. Diverse citywide movements like YOUTH F1RST, ensure that city officials recognize youth as valuable assets and continue to offer youth the opportunities they need to thrive.

On November 10, 2004 the coalition held its first public event, **“Campaign for Youth”** which successfully attracted approximately 500 community members, including city officials. The event was the first step in the coalition’s commitment to making youth first.

### Time to say Goodbye :

Thank you to CMCHC and all its community partners for allowing me the opportunity to gain new experiences and friendships that I can carry over to my next journey. As my travels lead me back to California I can truly say that community exists wherever we create them.

-Laura Martínez

Youth Outreach & Media Specialist

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” -Margaret Mead

## Diversity Materials in the Resource Center

By Faye Fulone Sweeney



Diversity as defined in Webster’s II New Riverside Dictionary is “ difference; variety”. Those words are important in all facets of life. Imagine how boring life would be without diversity in things that we do and people we meet.

Some folks are intolerant of the differences that they come across when meeting new people and learning new cultures and find it difficult to respond positively to those differences. Here at CMCHC we wrap our arms around diversity and have materials to show others how

they may learn to do the same.

Resources we have on the topic of diversity are available in all forms; curricula, video and print. One of our most recent video acquisitions is, “A Class Divided”, the true story of “an innovative teacher, Jane Elliott, who attempted a daring experiment in her elementary school classroom to evaluate how racial stereotypes affect young children.”

Two other new videos on the subject of diversity are “the Color of Fear” and “the Color of Fear 2 – Walking Each Other Home”. The first documentary is about “eight North American men of Asian,

European, Latino and African descent, who spend a weekend together talking about racism.” The sequel explores more in depth the intimate relationships amongst the men. “Growing Up Black and Proud” is a curriculum on “the role of racial identity in drug abuse prevention” and our most popular video on diversity is “The Teen Files Flipped: Tolerance”.

If you have not already been in to visit our Resource Center or would like an orientation of the library layout and materials on hand, please call the center at (508) 438-0515 and ask for Faye.

## Diversity in Action

By José Rivera



I first met Worcester in 1968, when I came to Holy Cross College. Since then, I have sojourned back home (Puerto Rico), through Europe and in several states; and I have always returned to Worcester. There have been many reasons for these Capistrano swallow-like returns. But one fact remains constant: Worcester and its people are great! There are numerous contributors to this. Today I want to focus on one: the Diversity Committee of the Worcester Youth and Family Network.

At the core of this awesome group is its vision: “To Promote All Aspects of Differences by including, respecting and appreciating the unique values and cultures of all members of our community.” It goes on to say:

- We believe that each individual’s culture is unique.
- We celebrate those differences.
- We promote respect for all.
- We believe children who learn to respect differences are our city’s future.
- We believe there is strength in diversity.

These words sound good, but they would be powerless without the people who give them their life force. (Good news / bad news: there is not enough room in this newsletter to list the 40+ committee

members.) I must, at least say that at the table we have parents, youth, City Hall, providers, schools, funders, community groups, and churches. To have such a group invested in honoring and celebrating Worcester’s diversity is to work towards Jimmy Carter’s ideal America: to be a place where “different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, [and] different hopes” come together to “become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic.”

**For more information about the Diversity Committee, please contact:**

Sue Hannigan, *Project Director*  
 Worcester Communities of Care  
 275 A Belmont St.  
 Worcester, MA 01605  
 Tel. # 508-856-5453  
 Fax: 508-856-1378  
 E-mail: [suzannehannigan@umassmed.edu](mailto:suzannehannigan@umassmed.edu)

## College Consortium Creates Opportunities

By Courtney Bisceglia

Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc. promotes diversity amongst the 13 colleges of Worcester by creating more avenues of opportunity for the students in offering cross registration, academic resources, and a shuttle bus. The Consortium exists to form collaborative opportunities for students at area colleges. When speaking of the shuttle bus, Marj Manter, Student Services Coordinator for the Consortium stated, “The shuttle is fantastic. It provides students the opportunity to travel to the six colleges involved, the Worcester public library, and downtown Worcester. It



also enables them to visit other libraries, get to cross-registered classes, and jobs or internships within the city”. The six colleges in the Consortium serviced by the shuttle are Assumption, Becker, WPI, Clark, Holy Cross, and Worcester State College.

A great service the Consortium has created is the cross registration program, where undergraduate day students can take courses at other institutions at no additional tuition charge.

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Committee offers another opportunity for diverse participation. A representative from each of the participating schools attends monthly meetings of the

committee to collaborate their efforts and to share ideas and experiences in addressing AOD issues on campus.

As a member of CMCHC working under the STEP Program, and because I am a recent college graduate, I can identify with some of the issues brought to the Consortium’s AOD Committee. Through the Center I am able to offer STEP services to each of these diverse colleges, whenever an incident may occur. **For more information on the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, visit [www.cowc.org](http://www.cowc.org).**





central massachusetts center for  
**healthycommunities**

*A program of LUK, Inc.*

Funded in part by the MA Dept. of Public Health

44 Front Street, Suite 280  
Worcester, MA 01608-1733  
508-438-0515 ° 800-820-0036  
Fax 508-438-0516  
www.cmchc.org

**Address Update:**  
In order to serve you better we would like to keep our list serve/database up to date. Please e-mail: [dswope@cmchc.org](mailto:dswope@cmchc.org) or fax 508-438-0516 with your current contact info. **Thank You!**

**Calendar of Events**

**December**

**National Drunk & Drugged Driving Month**  
[www.3dmonth.org](http://www.3dmonth.org)

**13 Clinton Environmental Strategies Training\***  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
@Clinton High School

**15 LUK, Inc. Open House**

**24 Office Closed for Holidays**

**January**

**National Volunteer Blood Donor Month**  
[www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org)

**13 MASSCHIP Training**  
10:00-12:00 p.m. @CMCHC

**20 Worcester Environmental Strategies Training\***  
3:00-5:00 p.m. @CMCHC

**February**

**Wise Health Consumer Month**  
[www.healthylife.com](http://www.healthylife.com)

**3 Using Data to Mobilize Your Community \***  
3:00-5:00 p.m. @CMCHC

**13-19 Children of Alcoholics Week** [www.nacoa.org](http://www.nacoa.org)

**17 Grant Writing\***  
10:00-12:00 p.m. @CMCHC

*\*Please note: There is a \$25 registration fee for these workshops. We would never want anyone not to be able to attend due to financial restraints, so scholarships are available.*

**Mass Partnership for Healthy Communities Trainings**  
The following workshops are open to all MassForum participants and/or members of their communities.

December 7, 2004 <b>Using &amp; Understanding Data</b> 9:00-1:00 p.m. @ CMCHC	January 11, 2005 <b>Building Diverse Teams</b> 1:00-4:00 p.m. @ CMCHC	February 8, 2005 <b>Recruiting, Maintaining &amp; Engaging Team Members</b> 1:00-4:00 p.m. @ CMCHC
---	---	--

*Trainings are free but registration is limited so register early by contacting Akosa Aguda 617-423-4337 x500 or email: [aaguda@tmfnet.org](mailto:aaguda@tmfnet.org)*