

# The ALPHA Report

American Lead Poisoning Help Association

Spring 2007

Volume 3, Issue 1

## A is for ALPHA

*It's 2007* - in three short years, childhood lead poisoning will be eradicated, according to the Federal government, 2010=0 their battle cry. For parents just learning about their child's elevated lead level, that slogan means nothing. Nothing matters more than finding out how to best help your child, and *that* is a lifetime endeavor. Support groups exist for breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, autism, and diabetes, to name a few, and **ALPHA** intends to provide support for families of lead-poisoned children.

To date, the American Lead Poisoning Help Association links together parents and concerned citizens in 20 states to network and share. Parents no longer need to feel that they are alone in facing the long-term issues their children may experience.

Even *if* the government was successful in eradicating childhood lead poisoning by 2010, those children will remain in the school system through 2028. Many children with a diagnosed history of lead poisoning today are either home-schooled, in special education classes, or in a normal classroom falling desperately behind the rest of the class.

Then there are the medical issues, which sky-rocket to new highs each and every year. There is medication for focus,

medication to sleep, and medication to bridge the gaps between the two. Physical therapists, speech therapists, psychologists and neurologists, and yet not one has the magic wand to make these children better.

As many of you learned over the years, parents of lead-poisoned children are a dedicated bunch, passionate about our work, which is a 24/7 career. Parents defy classification - our backgrounds are as diverse as our children's lead exposures, yet as parents, we provide the human element to the statistics of childhood lead poisoning.

In this issue, ALPHA is focusing on several parent grassroots or established groups dedicated to ending childhood lead poisoning in their communities. Parents from Iowa, Maine/New Hampshire, Texas, Rhode Island, Ohio and New Jersey promote lead awareness through health fairs, parent meetings, conference presentations, and the Internet, many volunteering their personal time and money towards these efforts.

The American Lead Poisoning Help Association continues to emerge as a national support group, assisting parents in their quests. ALPHA needs your financial support to continue to develop the network and reach parents in

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### *Call to Action:*

#### **National Working Group on Lead Poisoning Prevention for Refugees and Immigrants**

As federal dollars are reduced, the need for lead poisoning prevention programs persists in New Hampshire. Manchester, the most densely populated city in NH, remains a priority; many of the older buildings are in disrepair. Manchester is also home to many immigrants and refugees from around the world. The refugee's plight continues to emphasize the need for increased lead hazard funding and programs.

In 2000, a Sudanese refugee child died after only a few weeks in her new home; in 2006, lead poisoning affected twenty Bantu children in one building. This prompted a random sampling of children in inner-city Manchester, which found nearly 40% of the children tested had elevated blood lead levels.

Recently, ALPHA mom Sandra Roseberry has been following

up with the Bantu families poisoned in 2006, and in newly-referred refugee cases through **The Way Home**. These families have endured years of oppression, violence and living in refugee camps, and now face poverty and poisoning in America. Once the refugees arrive, they are placed in low rent areas that consist almost exclusively of pre-1950 housing.

Rent and security deposits are mostly from funding that funnels down through the US State Department, BUT, the apartments they are moved into have not been tested for lead, nor do the refugees receive lead warning in their native languages. The agencies responsible for bringing the refugees to the US report that they are unable to test the homes prior to placing the

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# Iowa Lead Updates

**Iowa Parents Against Lead** promotes lead awareness, especially through active parents Brenda Music in Independence and Angela Ausborn in Britt. These two mothers have over 17 years combined personal lead experience through their children, and educate in their communities about the dangers of lead. Brenda is the founder of IPAL; Angela recently started conducting parent presentations through the Hancock, Cerro Gordo and Worth County Lead Coalition.

Angela presented at the North Central Regional Conference in Chicago last September, and also attended the Parents as Presenters Training Workshop. She educates at health fairs and high school classes on the dangers of lead.

IPAL recently hosted a booth at the Buchanan Early Childhood Health Fair on March 31, 2007. Senator Shoenjahn stopped by to discuss a bill that just passed the House of Representatives and the Senate on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This bill states that ALL Iowa children must be tested for lead upon entering elementary school. Brenda wrote to ALL Iowa Senators asking them to pass this bill, and *On April 17, 2007 Governor Culver in Iowa signed House File 158 into law.* This law is a good step forward for all Iowa children. Now, to test younger children...

IPAL also has started a weekly e-mail of recalls of ALL items that involve children, not just the lead-related recalls. Most parents are not aware of all these recalls. Brenda puts a brief outline of the recall info and the picture from the Consumer Product Safety Commission site. All the area WIC nurses in her region hand out IPAL pamphlets to ALL parents they see!

Contact IPAL at [IPAL@mchsi.com](mailto:IPAL@mchsi.com) for more lead events in the Eastern-central regions of Iowa, or to get on the weekly recall email list. IPAL on-line: [www.freewebs.com/iowapal](http://www.freewebs.com/iowapal)  
Iowa Lead Bill: <http://tinyurl.com/2av9gg>

# WANTED: Parents' Stories

**New Jersey**—The New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate is looking for New Jersey parents of lead-poisoned children to share their stories. Meetings will be held in Newark April 26, Trenton April 27, and Vineland April 30. Contact Maria Lugo at [Maria.lugo@advocate.state.nj.us](mailto:Maria.lugo@advocate.state.nj.us) or 609-826-5099 for more details.

**National**—the National Center for Healthy Housing and the Alliance for Healthy Homes in Washington DC are looking parents of lead-poisoned children who discovered elevated lead levels after renovations were done in their homes. Contact Karen Hinton at

703-798-3109 or [karen@karenhinton.com](mailto:karen@karenhinton.com), or Ralph Scott at the Alliance at 202-739-0881 or [rscott@afhh.org](mailto:rscott@afhh.org).

**New Hampshire**—**The Way Home** is looking for parents who are interested in telling their story, willing to testify, submit comments on upcoming legislation. Parents looking for help with referrals for service evaluations, contact Sandra Roseberry at 603-627-3491 x221 or [Seapoint416@comcast.net](mailto:Seapoint416@comcast.net) for more information.

[www.ALPHALeAD.org](http://www.ALPHALeAD.org)

## Lead Hazard Awareness Seminar

### Lead Hazard Awareness for Everyone

Developed originally for rental property owners to comply with Rhode Island's lead law, this DVD is useful for all property owners everywhere!

The lead hazard awareness seminar gives property owners low cost, lead-safe repair information to make their property and rental units reasonably lead-safe.

401.785.1310

This presentation is a collaborative effort of the Childhood Lead Action Project, Corporate Film & Video Productions and Rhode Island Lead Technicians, Inc.



### Does YOUR Home Contain LEAD?

**BTS Labs LeadSmart** - (retail \$69.99) - **\$35.00 plus \$5 initial shipping**. Kit includes testing for two samples (soil, dust, paint chip), includes return shipping, handling & analysis.

**WaterSmart Sample Kit lead** (retail \$79.99) - **\$60.00 plus shipping & handling**. Contact BTS Labs at:



800-604-1995

[www.BTSlabs.com](http://www.BTSlabs.com)

Mention "ALPHA" for discount

# Parent Updates from the ALPHA Network

**Texas**—Michele Gaffney remains active as a parent of a lead-poisoned child on the Board of Trustees with ALPHA, and recently started working full-time with a local school district. As the resident parent with HTML expertise, Michele created the NEW and IMPROVED [www.alphalead.org](http://www.alphalead.org) website that everyone needs to check out! Thank you!

**Iowa**—Brenda's daughter, Susanne Kresser, is the northeastern regional president of IPAL. Susanne is assisting Brenda with local-Independence lead education so Brenda can reach more families in other areas of Iowa. Susanne helps run the health fair booth the past three years, and also attends regional health department quarterly meeting; the health dept likes IPAL there to speak on behalf of the lead coalition.

**Ohio**—CCOAL, **Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead**, provides Lead Poisoning Prevention Classes in partnership with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry to the Greater Cleveland Community. CCOAL uses a force of 14 trained parents of lead poisoned children and concerned community

members to educate the community about the dangers of lead, and will reach over 800 community residents with comprehensive information about lead this year.

CCOAL members, Robin Brown and Kim Fuelling, both parents of lead poisoned children, are members of the Greater Cleveland Lead Advisory Council Steering Committee. The GCLAC is a collaborative effort of more than 50 agencies and organizations coming together to eliminate lead poisoning. CCOAL is a partner organization of the Lead Safe Living Campaign charged with carrying out the Plan to Eliminate Lead Poisoning in Greater Cleveland. CCOAL is working hard to ensure that the community and the affected-community in particular, are a part of the process from planning to implementation. The community has a strong voice in Greater Cleveland and is a critical part of the effort to bring an end to lead.

For more information you can contact Kim Fuelling or Robin Brown at 216-696-1882 or [ccoal2@yahoo.com](mailto:ccoal2@yahoo.com).—*K. Fuelling*

## Immigrant & Refugee, *continued from page 1*

families due to time constraints. This lack of testing in the homes, coupled with no culturally-competent education on lead hazards, has resulted in one child's death, the poisoning of hundreds more children, and pregnant women.

The government seems to be neglecting to remember that federal funding for housing assistance requires for the housing to meet lead-safe standards and it would certainly be discriminatory to exclude the refugees and immigrants. This oversight needs to be addressed immediately to protect these vulnerable people. Sandra is requesting that lead poisoning prevention advocates, immigrant and refugee service providers

join together in a National Working Group to address the need for federal reform to remedy this issue.

The Lead and Environmental Health Association is holding its National Convention on April 24-27, where Ms. Roseberry will be participating in a work session and round table discussions on Lead Poisoning and Refugee/Immigrant populations. This will be an opportunity to hear from service providers on the challenges they are facing and suggestions for change. For more information or to join the effort, please contact Sandra Roseberry at 603-312-9939 or [Seapoint416@comcast.net](mailto:Seapoint416@comcast.net).—*S. Roseberry*

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and relatives affected by the Virginia Tech University tragedy. April 16, 2007—we will not forget.**

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ALPHALEAD/>  
*Learn what's going on in lead as it happens...*

**The ALPHA Report is published quarterly. If you are interested in receiving more information or getting on the mailing list, please email [info@ALPHALead.org](mailto:info@ALPHALead.org)**

***Please feel free to make copies of the newsletter & distribute in your communities.***

## New Jersey

In 2004, lead mom Leann Howell left the cornfields of Ohio for the bright lights of (Southern) New Jersey. Since then, she completed 3,400 hours with CLEAR (Community Lead Education And Reduction) Corp-NJ, developed lead education models for Newark and Trenton, and created the Interactive Leadie Eddie puppet show. She received a 2006 Lead Star Award for founding ALPHA.

Her **BIG** news was actually outside the lead arena (for a change); in December, Leann graduated with her Master of Arts in English

from Slippery Rock University. In October, she started as Project Manager of Lead & Healthy Homes at **Isles, Inc.**, a nonprofit in Trenton, where she now focuses on working with at-risk communities in education and funding available to NJ property owners; she currently has 22 properties at some stage of lead-safe repairs. She serves on the NJ Inter-agency Lead Task Force and Central NJ Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Trenton Coalition. In January, the NJ Dept of Health & Senior Services released a DVD on safe

remodeling, with Leann providing hindsight on *why you shouldn't do it yourself...*

To date, Leann has promoted lead awareness to over 2,700 NJ children, parents and family workers, primarily in the Trenton area, although she volunteers her time in her local community. In January, she presented to her daughter's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class on lead, including jewelry recalls. One girl still had the Reebok charm bracelet...

Contact Leann at [Howell526@comcast.net](mailto:Howell526@comcast.net) or 609-332-6730

You are not alone anymore...

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Riverside NJ 08075

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Fax: 609-393-9513

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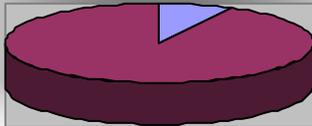
[www.ALPHALead.org](http://www.ALPHALead.org)

## ALPHA, *continued from page 1*

more states. ALPHA has raised \$850 in contributions towards our goal of \$10,000 for 2007. Please help support ALPHA by making a donation today. Having someone else

### ALPHA Fundraising Progress

■ Contributions to date ■ 2007 fundraising goal



to talk to about this issue is a *necessary* step in the recovery; having a national lead support group to provide information for parents facing lead is an *essential* step towards eradicating lead poisoning with this generation. Thank you for your consideration and advocacy.

*Leann*

Leann Howell  
Executive Director & Founder  
American Lead Poisoning Help Association

### Donors to date include:

*BTS Laboratories*

*Lead Based Paint Inspections*

*Mike Martin*

*Richard Serpe, Esq.*

*Barry Sugarman, Esq.*

*Weil Communications & Marketing Inc.*

ALPHA thanks you for your support

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