

Building Local Coalitions to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Final Report Appendices Direct Action Outreach Materials and Events

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New York State Health Foundation grant number SOG1-1935251

**Oneida County Outreach
"Where's Lead Paint?"
Script**

Actors:	Window
(to be announced)	Door
	Chipped and peeling paint
	Lead dust
	Doctor
	Mom
	Dad
	Child
	Contractor
	Chorus

Chipped and peeling paint comes out: "I am chipped and peeling paint"

Narrator: Chipped and peeling paint can be found inside and outside of homes. Homes built before 1978 run a higher risk of the paint containing lead.

Lead dust comes out: "I am lead dust, I form when friction surfaces rub together"

Narrator: A fine leaded dust is produced when friction surfaces in the home rub together. Lead dust looks like regular household dust, except it is poison. Some examples of known friction surfaces producing lead dust are:

Window comes out: "I am a window, I have friction surfaces"

Narrator: When windows are opened and closed, the window components, such as the sash, track, frame and sill rub together creating friction and produce a fine leaded dust.

Door comes out: "I am a door, I have friction surfaces."

Narrator: When doors have been painted with lead paint, opening and closing causes friction and produces a fine leaded dust. It is namely this dust that when ingested by breathing or eating causes lead poisoning. Children poisoned by lead often do not look sick. The only way to test for lead poisoning in children is to take them to:

Doctor comes out: "I am a doctor, I order blood tests."

Narrator: All children under the age of 6 should be tested for lead poisoning with a simple blood test. Children with high levels of lead may complain of headaches or stomach aches or may become very irritable and tired. Lead poisoning can mimic flu like symptoms. Your doctor can explain how important it is to have children from 6 month to 2 years tested to determine blood lead levels.

Mom, Dad and Child comes out: "We are having (child's name) tested for lead poisoning.

Narrator: Children can become poisoned by putting their hands or other objects covered with leaded dust in their mouths, eating paint chips, tracking in soil that contains lead, or

breathe in leaded dust, especially during renovations that disturb painted surfaces. One way to minimize ingesting lead dust is to make sure the whole family washes their hands before meals and before going to bed.

SONG: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands (sung to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, Wash, Wash our hands

Play our handy game

Rub and scrub, scrub and rub germs go down the drain HEY!

Wash, Wash, Wash your hands

Play our handy game

Rub and scrub, scrub and rub dirt goes

Down the drain HEY!

SONG: Wash Your Hands (sung to the tune of When You're Happy and You Know It)

When you've washed your hands and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

When you've washed your hands and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

When you've washed your hands you know it then your healthy body will show it.

When you've washed your hands and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

Dad comes out: I want to remodel my home.

Narrator: Lead dust is especially prevalent during renovations that disturb painted surfaces. You should not begin any type of renovations without being trained in Lead Safe Work Practices. You should never try to remove lead-based paint by yourself. Hire a professional.

Contractor comes out: I have lead-safe training I can do the job safely.

Narrator: Contractors who are certified in Lead-Safe Work Practices know the correct and safest way to reduce contamination from surfaces covered with lead paint. Infants, children and pregnant women should not be in the home while renovations and repairs are under way.

Mom and Dad come out: Let's clean this dust, it might contain lead.

Narrator: For your own protection and to save leaded dust from flying around from room to room, clean one room at a time. Close doors to each room, close windows as you clean them. Use gloves on your hands, rags you can throw away and two rag type mops. Mop/wipe down all surfaces with the cleaning solution, let it dry. Clean your bucket and wipe all surfaces a second time with new wet rags/mops. Do not use cleaning solution for the clean rinse.

Song: This Is The Way We Clean Our Home (sung to Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush)

This is the way we wash our floors

Wash our floors

Wash our floors

This is the way we wash our floors

To keep our homes lead safe

This is the way we clean our home

Clean our home

Clean our home

This is the way we clean our home

To keep our homes lead safe

Narrator: Where is lead paint?

Kids response: EVERY WHERE!

Actors come out to be introduced and take a bow.

**Oneida County Outreach
"Where's Lead Paint?"
Boonville Production Press Release**

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.

Media Release

June 2, 2008 For Immediate Release

BOONVILLE - The children of Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency's Head Start program will present an original play, "Where's the Lead?," at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, in the Boonville Town Hall at 13149 Route 12.

Community Action has received a New York State Health Foundation grant to launch lead awareness and education programs this year in Boonville and Camden. These activities are part of a year-long project in partnership with the University of Rochester's Environmental Health Sciences Center to support community efforts to prevent lead poisoning in three New York counties with high rates of lead poisoning.

Terry Green, MVCAA Rural Preservation Manager, said, "We want to drive home the message to parents that lead can harm their children. We decided the best way to do that was through the children. Families enjoy seeing their children in a play."

MVCAA will work with the University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center and local leaders to set up educational programs to identify and prevent lead contamination.

Boonville Village Mayor Michael Kramer welcomed the lead education initiative. Lead "is a problem for everyone," he said.

Lead poisoning is a health risk for children under six years old, the age group served by Head Start. It can damage their central nervous systems, kidneys and reproductive systems and can result in lower IQs for affected children.

For many years, lead was a common ingredient in paint, and as time passed, the paint chipped or was ground into dust by friction or sanding. Lead-contaminated dust, soil, or paint chips may be swallowed by children, causing elevated blood lead levels and lasting damage to their health. The federal government banned lead paint in 1978, but even when leaded paint has been painted over by non-leaded paint, it may pose a hazard.

Cathe Bullwinkle, who coordinates lead research for the Oneida County Health Department, said Boonville and Camden have many old homes with a potential for high levels of lead from dust, soil and flaking paint.

MVCAA has a special vacuum cleaner it will loan to families to remove existing lead from their homes.

More than 25 children from the classes of Erin Taft and Jill Bator will take part in the play in roles ranging from parents to contractors to lead chips.

Musical numbers will be accompanied on guitar by MVCAA the housing program's Assistant Manager Mary VanValkenburgh, and MVCAA Deputy Director Rick Weltz will be the narrator.

Camden Head Start will present the play later this year.

Oneida County Outreach
"Where's Lead Paint?"
Boonville production photographs



Oneida County Outreach
“Where’s Lead Paint?”
Post Production Evaluation – How Much Do You Know About Lead?

Name: _____

Address: _____

1. All children under the age of 6 should be tested for lead poisoning?
True _____ False _____

2. Where might you find friction surface?
 - a. Outdoors
 - b. In your car
 - c. Indoors/windows & doors
 - d. On a carpet

3. A home built before _____ is very likely to contain lead-based paint.
 - a. 1929
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1945
 - d. 1963

4. Who can safely perform renovations in your home?
 - a. Yourself
 - b. Landlords
 - c. Contractors trained in Lead Safe Work Practices
 - d. Real Estate Agents

5. Which of the following do you think would be one of the most important things to prevent a child from ingesting leaded dust?
 - a. Washing his/her face
 - b. Washing his/her hands
 - c. Blowing his/her nose
 - d. None of the above

~~~~~  
Please complete the following:

1. How old is your home? \_\_\_\_\_ years
2. Have you done any renovations in your home? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
3. Have your children been tested for lead? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
4. Will you be looking for more information concerning lead-based paint? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
5. Do you feel the information you received today will be beneficial to your family/? If so, why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Chemung County Outreach  
Community Events**

**Downtown Farmer's Market – July 2008 (left)  
Strong Kids Safe Kids – August 2008 (right)**



## Chemung County Outreach Church Bulletins

July 13, 2008

RISH

**Weekend Masses**  
Sunday: St. Patrick 4pm  
St. Peter and Paul 4pm  
Monday: St. Patrick 8am  
St. Patrick 10:30am  
St. Peter and Paul 11am

**ons:**  
pm—3:40pm  
3pm—3:40pm  
ment

to marry must contact  
at 6 months before an in-

Service—St. P



Page Three *Blessed Sacrament Parish - St. Patrick - St.*

### Please save pull tabs

Please remember that we save and recycle, for money, pull tabs from all cans. The pull tabs can be placed in the green boxes at the back of St. Peter and Paul's church or dropped off at the parish office. The money is donated to the Ronald McDonald house which is a home away from home for children's families while the children are in the hospital.



### Children Could Be At Risk for Lead Poisoning

Lead is a toxin found in paint used on the inside and outside of many homes built prior to 1978. It can also be found in dust, dirt, and certain hobby or building materials. Lead poisoning affects the brain, heart, bones, and kidneys. The effects of lead poisoning are irreversible and lead has a larger impact on children because their brains and bodies are still growing.

Parents are urged to have children tested at age one and two. Ask the child's doctor to do this or call Chemung County Department of Health for an appointment (737-2028). The test is free, fast and so important. For more information contact: *Catholic Charities Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Project* at 734-9784 ext. 134.

### Teen Reality

July 7...What are the hardest words for you to say? Most of us answered, "I was wrong." Maybe that's why so many of us avoid the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It's really hard to admit when we've done or said something we know is wrong. It's especially difficult to admit it to another person. But maybe admitting the wrong is part of the repentance. Like when we're little and we take something that isn't ours we are made to give it back as part of the punishment and then say we are sorry.

This Monday night, July 14, we have been invited to a member's home, so we won't be at our usual meeting place. They have a pool, a hot tub and a big back yard. We should have lots of fun.

**Teen Reality** is for all teens 13-18 years old or 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade and their friends. We meet Mondays, all year, from 7-9P.M. at SS. Peter & Paul's former office, at 161 High St. Teens are welcome to join us at anytime.

Chemung County Outreach  
Media Coverage



**TwinTiers Moms**  
www.twintiersmoms.com

Page 5C, Star-Gazette  
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Assistant Publications Editor  
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# Protect your family from the danger of lead paint

Lead poisoning is one of the most significant environmental health threats to children in New York. Lead poisoning is not treatable, but it is almost entirely preventable.

Most homes built before 1978 have some lead paint inside and/or outside. Lead may be released into the environment from deteriorating leaded paint, friction or impact, or from unsafe home renovations. Children may be poisoned by invisible lead dust released when paint is peeling, chipping or flaking. The dust settles on floors and other surfaces where children can easily get the dust on their hands or on their toys, and into their mouths. They also can be poisoned by playing in bare soil, which may contain lead from paint that has peeled from outside walls.

Lead can be found on any painted surface and is most often found on windows, trim, doors, railings, columns, porches and outside walls. Surfaces that have been repainted may have layers of lead paint underneath.

## ■ Why is lead paint dangerous?

Lead paint can harm children's brains, causing lifelong learning and behavior problems. Further, it can affect their heart, bones, kidneys and nervous system.

Although lead poisoning of children is of greatest concern, lead has negative effects on adults, as well. Because lead affects all organ systems and is stored in the bones, adults may be affected by past lead exposure or by ongoing exposure,

usually from workplaces, unsafe home remodeling or hobbies.

Pregnant mothers also can pass lead to their babies.

## ■ How do you know if your child is lead poisoned?

Although there may be signs of lead poisoning, the only way to find out whether your child has high levels of lead is with a blood lead test. The test is simple, quick and available for free at most local pediatric offices and at the Chemung County Health Department. Call the health department at (607) 737-2028 for details about the test.



Marilyn Terkoski

New York state law requires that parents have their children tested at age 1, and again at 2 years of age. Other children, up to age 6, should be tested for lead if their doctor thinks they are at high risk.

## ■ What if my child has been lead poisoned?

If your child tests positive for lead, the test results will be automatically referred to the Chemung County Health Department. A Lead Risk Assessor can conduct a free test of the painted surfaces in your home to determine the source of the lead. If lead is found, recommendations will be provided on how to make your home lead-safe or lead-free.

## ■ Where can I get help?

The city of Elmira has funding available to assist eligible homeowners and landlords

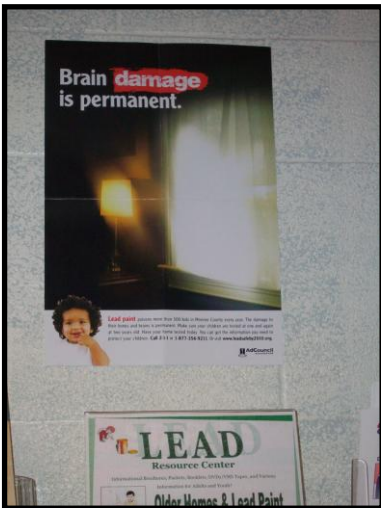
committed to making houses in Chemung County lead-free or lead-safe. Priority is given to households with children under age 6 who are found to have an elevated blood lead level. To find out if you qualify for funding, contact the city of Elmira Community Development Office at (607) 737-5695.

For more information on

preventing lead poisoning, contact Catholic Charities Childhood and the Chemung County Lead Poison Prevention Coalition at (607) 734-9784, ext. 134.

*Marilyn Terkoski is project coordinator for the Catholic Charities Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Project.*

**Cayuga County Outreach  
Lead Resource Center**



**Cayuga County Outreach  
"Stomp the Lead Out"  
Door-to-door Outreach Event Photos**



**Cayuga County Outreach  
“Stomp the Lead Out”  
Door-to-door Outreach Press Release**

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Renee Jensen, Community Educator of Environmental Issues

Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County 315-255-1183.

Group to Reach Out to Residents and Property Owners on Lead Hazards

On Friday, November 14th, there will be a Lead Outreach event organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, with support from the University of Rochester and funding from the New York State Health Foundation. Cornell Cooperative Extension’s goal is to help parents in Cayuga County protect their children from lead poisoning by providing them with information and resources about lead. This event will be hosted in the Orchard Street neighborhood, where some of the residences have been directly affected by the lead issue. During the Lead Outreach event, a diverse group including the Cayuga County Health Department Lead Coordinator, BOCES New Visions Medical Students and BOCES New Visions Environmental Students will conduct door to door education in the Orchard Street neighborhood in the City of Auburn. These teams will evaluate the exterior of homes, educate tenants, and provide resources on how to address lead hazards. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County has sent letters to area property owners inviting them to participate in the outreach event; these letters contained information about the dangers of lead to their tenants’ children, and resources available for fixing lead hazards.

The major sources of lead exposure among U.S. children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in housing built before 1978. Lead dust may enter homes from deterioration of older paint, renovation in older homes, or soil brought in from outside. Any sort of friction can create lead dust, even if the lead paint is covered over; this dust is then ingested by children in normal hand to mouth behaviors. The most hazardous areas are windows, porches, and doors where friction and impact can create invisible lead dust.

Lead poisoning is most serious for children six years and younger because the brain and the nervous system are still developing. Lead poisoning affects virtually every system in the body, and often occurs with no distinctive symptoms. Lead can damage a child’s central nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. Even low levels of lead are harmful and are associated with decreased intelligence, impaired neurobehavioral development, decreased growth, and impaired hearing.

Lead poisoning is preventable, and this door to door educational program will provide landlords and tenants with the information needed to help make their homes lead safe.

**Cayuga County Outreach  
"Stomp the Lead Out"  
Door-to-door Outreach Media Coverage**

# New Visions: Get the lead out

GITANA MIROCHNIK  
The Citizen

AUBURN — A group of 15 New Visions students from the environmental science and medical programs of the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES went door-to-door in the Orchard Street neighborhood in Auburn Friday in hopes of teaching people with young children about the effects of lead poisoning.

"A lot of people don't really know about the harmful causes of lead and what it can do to children," said Emily Costello, 18.

"It's also an experience for us because we're not learning out of a textbook," Emily Meier, 17, added. Lead poisoning is a big issue in health so it allows us to learn both ways."

Costello and Meier are both in

the medical program.

Students were divided into five groups of three. Each group was responsible for collecting data about the house, such as taking pictures of areas they suspect have lead and getting soil samples, filling out a 10-question survey if the owner or tenant was willing to do so and leaving an information packet at each house. One student from each group used a GPS unit to input information about each house that would later be used to connect a visual image of the house with an assessment of the property.

The lead poisoning awareness project is a collaboration among the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, BOCES, the University of Rochester and the Cayuga County Health Department.

"University of Rochester actually did a needs assessment of lead poi-

soning in our county and it pointed out that we were very strong in testing children under 6 (for) lead, but we were kind of weak on educating people about the effects of lead and also home repairs, so that's something that we were trying to do today," said Renee Jensen, community educator of environmental issues for the cooperative extension.

The Orchard Street area was chosen because of the older housing stock and the amount of cases of lead poisoning in that particular area, she said. Because many of the houses in the area were built before 1978, there's a good chance that they have lead.

As of 2005, the latest year for which data is available, 1.09 percent of children in Cayuga County from 0 to 6 years old have elevated blood lead

See STUDENTS, A5



Sam Tenney / The Citizen

Renee Jensen, right, a community educator of environmental issues for the Cornell Cooperative Extension, speaks to New Visions students and teacher Kelly Herrington, fourth from left, before going door to door in the Orchard Street neighborhood to educate parents about lead poisoning Friday morning.

## Students collected surveys, soil samples

Continued from A1

levels, said Lisa Donalds, lead coordinator for the Cayuga County Health Department. The county also has the 18th lowest incidence rate out of 57 counties rated in New York state. The data does not include New York City.

The students visited 72 houses along the Orchard Street area and collected 14 completed surveys, Jensen said. They also collected 17 soil samples, which will be sent to a lab for testing.

Students appreciated the opportunity of being able to implement lessons learned.

"I think you learn the most

when you're out there pounding the pavement," said Thomas Fessenden, 17, a student in the environmental science program.

His teacher, Anne Moore, believes that linking what the students learn in school with how it impacts the community plays an important role. Moore wants students to be able to connect science to public policy.

"This does not end here. It will become a continued effort," she said. "Education is the epicenter of the solution."

Staff writer Gitana Mirochnik can be reached at 253-5311 ext. 237 or gitana.mirochnik@lee.net

Cayuga County Outreach  
"Stomp the Lead Out"  
Door-to-door Outreach Media Coverage

# 'Stomp the Lead Out'

## Students go door-to-door to help protect kids

By Scott Rapp  
Staff writer

Groups of three students and one adult fanned out on Orchard Street Friday morning.

Armed with new doormats that said "Stomp the Lead Out," latex gloves, plastic spoons and bags, cameras and helpful tips, the five groups started knocking on random doors between Washington and Columbus streets.

They were on a mission, trying to spread the word about the perils of lead poisoning to young children and how parents can prevent or reduce the risk in their homes.

"We know this is an area of high risk. We can see clusters of children in this area that have been poisoned so we're here today to educate this neighborhood and hopefully get the message out about ways to prevent or reduce lead poisoning and lead hazards," said Lisa Donalds, the Cayuga County Health Department's lead poison program coordinator.

The Health Department is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County and the University of Rochester in coordinating the program, which is funded by a state grant totaling about \$19,000.

Organizers are developing an interactive map of Orchard Street properties that have lead paint. They also encouraged parents in the neighborhood on Friday to have their young children tested for lead poisoning and showed them easy ways to reduce the risk.

Some 15 students from Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES New Visions environmental and medical programs did much of the legwork on Friday. They surveyed residents, took pictures and soil samples, and gave packets of literature with helpful tips to receptive residents.

They also handed out the doormats



Lauren Long / The Post-Standard

**LISA DONALDS**, a public health nurse who serves as lead coordinator for the Cayuga County Department of Health, talks Friday with Matt Berry at his home on Orchard Street in Auburn.

with the catchy phrase, "Stomp the Lead Out." Wiping off your shoes can remove lead paint dust and fragments.

Participating student Alexandra Taylor, 17, of Auburn, embraced the spirit of Friday's mission.

"My whole thing is that I want to be able to help people and I think this is one of the best ways to do that. It's in our community and making people aware of it is a really good thing to do," said Taylor, who wants to be a doctor.

Lead poisoning affects about 4 percent of the nation's children and is worse in older, impoverished neighborhoods in large cities, according to research. Children younger than 7 are

at the greatest risk and lead poisoning can cause a myriad of injuries, from brain damage to neurological problems to death.

Orchard Street, between Washington and Columbus streets, is one of Auburn's poorest neighborhoods. Officials fear many of the older houses have peeling lead-based paint, which could lead to poisoning.

Jeanette Scott, 23, sat on her front stoop at her Orchard Street apartment, clutching one of her twin year-old daughters while answering survey questions from Taylor.

Yes, there is peeling and flaking paint in her apartment windows, Scott said.

Yes, she worries that it is lead paint and yes, she would like to know more about how she could prevent her children from getting poisoned, Scott said. She had previously planned to have her twins tested later in the day.

"It's something nobody should have, something no kids should have," Scott said after the survey.

While Taylor and Donalds asked questions, New Visions environmental student Ben Ormsby took pictures of the properties and spooned soil samples into plastic bags. He kept written records of his pre-approved work.

"This is very hands-on. We're out figuring how to do things. We're learning how to think rather than simply learning facts and memorizing them," Ormsby said.

Donalds said she hopes parents in the neighborhood heed the day's warnings and take the precautionary steps to protect their children.

Plans are to do more surveys in city neighborhoods next year and eventually expand the program into the county.

"Preventative medicine, that's what it's all about," she said.