Tabitha inspires other parents to join the cause.

Tabitha connected with the Healthy Homes Coalition in early 2016 after learning about our home assessment program. Tabitha has two daughters that had been in and out of the emergency room as their asthma left them struggling to breathe.

Throughout the beginning of 2016 Tabitha learned about asthma triggers and environmental health at home. As she was able to worry less about her daughters’ asthma, she began reaching out to other parents through our Parents for Healthy Homes group – Healthy Homes’ parent advisory council. Tabitha quickly became a leader and resource among other parents facing similar struggles related to providing healthy housing for their kids. She recognized that many parents in Grand Rapids are unaware of environmental hazards and don’t know their rights as tenants.

For the past year Tabitha has not only been working hard to get the word out about Healthy Homes’s services, but also has become an advocate at the State and local levels for healthy housing for families with children.

Since Tabitha stepped up to lead Parents for Healthy Homes, more and more parents have been inspired to fight for healthy housing. She has been able to form relationships with other parents and inspires them to advocate for children’s health and wellbeing.

Her goal is to educate tenants on their rights and environmental health, involving parents in Healthy Homes, and advocating for proactive approaches to healthy housing. Tabitha hopes that Parents for Healthy Homes can reach many families, specifically on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.

Lead: How You Can Help

You can help keep children safe from lead hazards! Join us going door-to-door in Grand Rapids high risk neighborhoods to offer resources to families with young children.

More details inside.
Healthy Homes Assessments
Trained staff assess the home for a wide variety of children’s environmental health concerns, including lead, asthma triggers, radon, carbon monoxide, unintentional injury, and more. Assessments are followed-up by the development of an action plan, education, and connection to resources.

Smoke and CO Alarms
Free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed in the home for families with children living in Grand Rapids, Kentwood, and Wyoming.

Radon Testing
Free radon testing kits will be available during the month of January. Do-it-yourself kits available for $5 at other times (free for families participating in Healthy Homes assessments).

Get the Lead Out!
A City of Grand Rapids home repair program to make your home lead-safe. Both homeowners and landlords are eligible.

Eligibility
Most of Healthy Homes’ programs are restricted to low-moderate income families with young children living in Grand Rapids, Kentwood, and Wyoming. Call (616) 241-3300 for details.

Lead in Water: What About Grand Rapids?
In the wake of the Flint water crisis, there is renewed interest in childhood lead poisoning prevention and increased concern that municipal water testing may be insufficient to assure the public that drinking water is safe. In Kent County, lead in drinking water has not been identified as the primary route of exposure for children with elevated blood lead levels.

The primary concern with lead in water in Grand Rapids arises when there is construction activity involving the water system. Most notably, partial lead service line replacement (PLSLR) has proven problematic in numerous other communities.

In order to understand the impact of PLSLRs on safe drinking water for Grand Rapids residents, Healthy Homes decided to test the drinking water for residents after replacements were made.

Healthy Homes provided voluntary water testing to 69 households. Nine homes (12.0%) had a high sample at or above 10 parts per billion. All nine households were given a free water filter for their kitchen faucet.

The study revealed the following:
• Fixtures and particulate matter appear to be a bigger problem than lead service lines.
• PLSLR does seem to result in elevated lead in water.
• Children are at risk after reconstruction.

The Healthy Homes Coalition is proud to announce that the City of Grand Rapids is responding quickly and profoundly to this emerging issue. The City is implementing full lead service line replacement for construction projects in 2017 to make sure residents are safe from the hazards of PLSLR. This is great news for Grand Rapid residents, keeping their water safe.
Healthy Homes’ Executive Director Appointed to Governor’s Lead Commission

After serving on the Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board in 2016, Governor Snyder appointed Healthy Homes’ Executive Director, Paul Haan, to the newly formed and permanent Child Lead Exposure Elimination Commission. Governor Snyder created this Commission by Executive Order in March 2017. The new commission will advance the work completed by the temporary board last year, focusing on implementation of the board’s recommendations and monitoring the State’s efforts to eliminate lead exposure in children.

“It is an honor to be asked to continue serving in this important role,” said Haan. “We have a 15 year history of effectively fighting childhood lead poisoning in west Michigan, and I look forward to leveraging that knowledge in service to all the children of Michigan.”

Healthy Homes Staff and volunteers in Lansing with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley for Lead Education Day 2017.

Sustainability Campaign

Growing our effort, resiliency, and impact for the next ten years and beyond!

The Healthy Homes Coalition is proud to announce our Sustainability Campaign. The campaign goal is to build an operating reserve equal to five months of operating expenses. Our goal is to raise $40,000 this year. This board-restricted reserve fund will be responsibly invested to ensure our future and grow our impact.

- **Sustainability** – We want to protect kids from harm for the next ten years... and longer!
- **Preservation** – Like any family, we need an emergency fund to weather the unexpected.
- **Resiliency** – Individual giving is a powerful resource. It helps us do what the community needs when it needs it without strings attached.
- **More Families** – With your support, we will be able to help more children.
- **Greater Impact** – Imagine a day when no child in west Michigan has to grow up in an unhealthy home!

Want to donate? Visit [HealthyHomesCoalition.org/sustain](http://HealthyHomesCoalition.org/sustain)
Yes! I’d like to help children grow up strong, smart, and healthy by protecting them from environmental hazards in their homes by becoming a supporter of the Healthy Homes Coalition!

Name(s): ________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City:____________________________   State: _____   Zip: _____________
Email: ___________________________________  Phone: (___)___________

Sponsorship Amount
[ ] $25      [ ] $50      [ ] $100      [ ] $200      Other:________

Join our Giving Circle by pledging a special gift over the next five years.
[ ] Healthy Futures Conservator $1,000 per year for five years.
[ ] Healthy Futures Builder $500 per year for five years.
[ ] Healthy Futures Friend $250 per year for five years.

Checks should be made payable to:
Healthy Homes Coalition
1545 Buchanan Ave SW Ste 2
Grand Rapids MI 49507
Or donate online at www.HealthyHomesCoalition.org/donate

Get the Lead Out! Goes Door-to-Door

Recognizing that we can’t wait for people to find us, the Healthy Homes Coalition is leading dozens of volunteers as they go door-to-door in the 49507 zip code this summer to warn residents about lead hazards in their homes and to offer solutions to keep children safe.

The first canvass took place on June 3 as four volunteers from Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church worked the neighborhood immediately surrounding their church. Dedicated volunteers identified homes with at-risk children, passed out literature, and gave away free Lead Check swabs so residents could test their home for lead-based paint.

Parents who don’t know about the hazards of lead are in no position to keep their children safe. Even with knowledge of the hazard, parents also need to know about available resources to help them get the lead out of their homes.

Would your church, workplace, club, or group like to help keep children safe? If you’d like to help canvass Grand Rapids’ most at-risk neighborhoods, contact email candace@healthyhomescoalition.org to volunteer!
Thank you to everyone who donated in recent months!

AAA Lead Inspections
Mary Abbott Cumming
Alger Pediatrics
Peter Armstrong
Scott & Sarah Baar
Dianna & Randy Baker
Michelle Behrenwald
Claudia & Marc Beversluis
Nina & Jerry Bowser
Jonathan & Grace Bradford
Gail Brink
Susan Broman & Kayem Dunn
Benjamin & Katie Bower
Peter Bruinsma
Joan Budden
Allie Buell
Dev & Susan Butler
Rian Bylsma
Calvin CRC
Carol Paine-McGovern Family Fund
Donna Chivis
Robert & Sue Cobb
Comerica Foundation
Laurie & Crawford Craft
Leslie Curry
Nate DeJong McCarron
Eric & Sharai DeLong
Dematic
Kevin den Dulk
Sue DeVries
Amy Brower & Eric Doyle
Matthew & Beth Dykstra
Trudy Elsner
Emergency Care Specialists
Environmental Defense Fund
John Fox
Fuller Avenue CRC
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Emily Green Schmeller
Paul Haan & Julie Nietling
Laura Hanley
Nicole Hansen
Lee & Judith Hardy
Madelon Hassberger
Gail & Ken Heffner
Dawn & Tim Hendriksen
John & Gwen Hibbard
Ron & Heidi Hofman
Holistic Care Approach
John Hunting
Dave & Lois Jacobs
Clarence Joldersma
Lucy & Scott Joswick
Bryan Judge
Ruth & Carl Kelly
Molly & Paul Klimas
Jonathan Klooster
Christy Knetsch
Cindy Koning
Erin Koster
Joseph Kuijlema & Joshlyn Litzenberger
David LaGrand
John & Julia LaPorte
Bill & Susan Lewis
Jan Lunquist
Douglas & Cathy MacLeod
Rod MacLeod
Casey & Audrey McIntosh
BriAnne McKee-Havens
Janice & Tom McWhorter
Mercantile Bank of Michigan
Alison Miller
Mark & Dawn Mulder
Peggy Murphy
Mark Muyskens
Neland Avenue CRC
Craig Nobbelin
Mindy Olivarez
Cara Oosterhouse
Rachelle Paxton-Ryskamp & Michael Ryskamp
Gail Philbin
Christina Pickett
PNC Foundation
Jack Post
Profile Films
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Kim Ridings
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Allison Rudi
Jamin Short
Erin Smith
Krista Sneller
Standale Interiors
Barbara Stanford & Mark Coleman
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Tegna Foundation
Moore Brower Charitable Fund
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Amy Turner-Thole & Nick Thole
Universal Forest Products Foundation
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Megan Van Kooten
Margaret Vander Meulen
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Mary Vernum
David & Teri Warners
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Wege Foundation
Joel Westra
Bruce Mason & Ann Wiley
William G Currie Foundation
Michael & Mary Alice Williams
Jennifer Woodard
Lori Lemieux-Woodcock
Yesterday
Mindy Ysasi
Laura Zuverink
Uko Zylstra

Thank you to our volunteers!

Jeff Bryant
Alexa Gutierrez
Alex Markham
Myichelle Mays
Shaniqua Nelson
Cathy Odom
Parents for Healthy Homes
Ready for Life Volunteer
Joel Vanderveen
Taylor Vanderveen
Tabitha Williams

Did You Know...water leaks and high humidity are good for mold, but bad for you.
Grand Rapids Mayor Declares June 2017 Healthy Homes Month

The Healthy Homes Coalition and the City of Grand Rapids are committed to eliminating harmful housing conditions.

Thank you, Mayor Bliss!

Adam London (Kent County Health Department), Doug Stek (City of Grand Rapids), Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Candace Chivis (Healthy Homes Outreach Coordinator), Paul Haan (Healthy Homes Executive Director), Joshlyn Litzenberger (Healthy Homes New Board President)