



Volume 6 Fall 2002

# Community Action Against Asthma

Working to reduce asthma in children in Detroit

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## CAAA Partners

- Butzel Family Center
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- Latino Family Services
- United Community Housing Coalition
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Kettering Butzel Health Initiative
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
- Detroit Health Department
- Henry Ford Health Systems
- Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management
- University of Michigan's Schools of Public Health and Medicine

## New Community Bulletin Board *Linking our Families and Friends!*

Many of our participants and their family members and friends have services or talents that can be of use to others. We would like to create a community bulletin board section in our newsletter highlighting these skills so that others in the CAAA community can utilize them. For example, some of you may be hairstylists or know how to do maintenance on cars. Why not make these skills available to others in CAAA?

Some examples of services that may be posted include:

- Hairstyling
- Automobile work
- Childcare
- Yard or housework
- Help with shopping
- Or any other service or assistance you can give to others!

We can also post special announcements such as:

- Weddings
- Arrival of a new baby
- Special birthday wishes
- Graduations

To post something on the CAAA bulletin board, **mail** the information along with your name, address, and telephone number to:

Community Action Against Asthma-Bulletin  
1420 Washington Heights, SPH II, Room M5146  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029

You can also **fax** us a flyer with the above stated information to (734) 763-7379. Please send it to the attention of Kathy Edgren.



## Community Partners

Alex Allen



Alex Allen, former Executive Director of Butzel Family Center, enjoyed the challenges his job presented. Coordinating a multipurpose community center, as he did, can bring variety into a workweek. Butzel is home to a number of social organizations such as the Eastside Village Health Workers Partnership and the Kettering-Butzel Health Initiative. Alex Allen helped these organizations work together in ways that best serve the community.

Alex appreciated CAAA's community based participatory research approach. The project's hands-on-approach is how Alex likes to work to get things done. Alex says the Community Environmental Specialists at CAAA have given parents the tools they need to fight asthma in their own backyards. Now that CAAA is beginning the environmental policy phase of the program, the community will have more tools to organize against asthma triggers at the community level. Alex also says, "This is what research should be about – making things better- not just publishing papers."

Unfortunately, Alex has left Butzel Family Center and CAAA. He and his family have moved to the East Coast while his wife attends Princeton's Theological Seminary. Alex has not yet solidified his plans in New Jersey, but they will likely incorporate his notable background in public health, local government, recreation, marketing, administration and management. Alex is also hoping to fit time in his busy schedule to return to school for a Ph.D. in Public Health or Urban Planning and Policy to further advocate for healthy urban environments. He is sure to become one of New Jersey's finest assets and we will all miss him and his contributions to this community.



**Enjoy Autumn!**

### Broken vacuum?

Don't forget... **Banks Vacuum Cleaner** store will repair your Eureka Smart Vac at a special rate just for families enrolled in CAAA. You will pay only \$19.95 for labor (usually \$39.95) and also receive a 40% discount on parts. They also sell bags, belts, and HEPA filters.

To take advantage of this offer, bring this newsletter to the store closest to you.

On the eastside: 20187 Mack Ave.

On the southwest side: 23341 Ford Rd.

And say THANK YOU to this generous business when you go there!

## Who's Who at CAAA?

**Ron Stewart**  
*Community Organizer for the East Side*

As the neighborhood community organizer for CAAA, Ron Stewart assists the residents of Detroit's East Side in addressing concerns relating to environmental conditions and the effects that such conditions have on asthma. He must remain up to date with political, economic, and social issues and is constantly meeting leaders in the community, grass root and political. But meeting new people isn't hard for Ron who says, "it's a great job for those who love to talk, meet new people and make positive changes in their surroundings as much as I do." This job is a great match for Ron who believes strongly in the mission of CAAA. He appreciates the diversity and intelligence of the CAAA staff and feels that support that they give him allows him to act and speak with confidence.

It is obvious that Ron feels comfortable as a community organizer from the activities he takes part in when he is not working. He volunteers with many nonprofit organizations in organizational development and project management including Freemasonry and the United Way. He is also a mentor for young males and holds classes for them four times a year.

Ron is also a photographer! He has been commissioned to shoot weddings, graduations, family portraits and even actors, musicians, and models. Although he doesn't have his own studio, he does have all the necessary equipment to take a great shot. Community Action Against Asthma is excited to have such an enthusiastic, talented, and creative individual on our team.

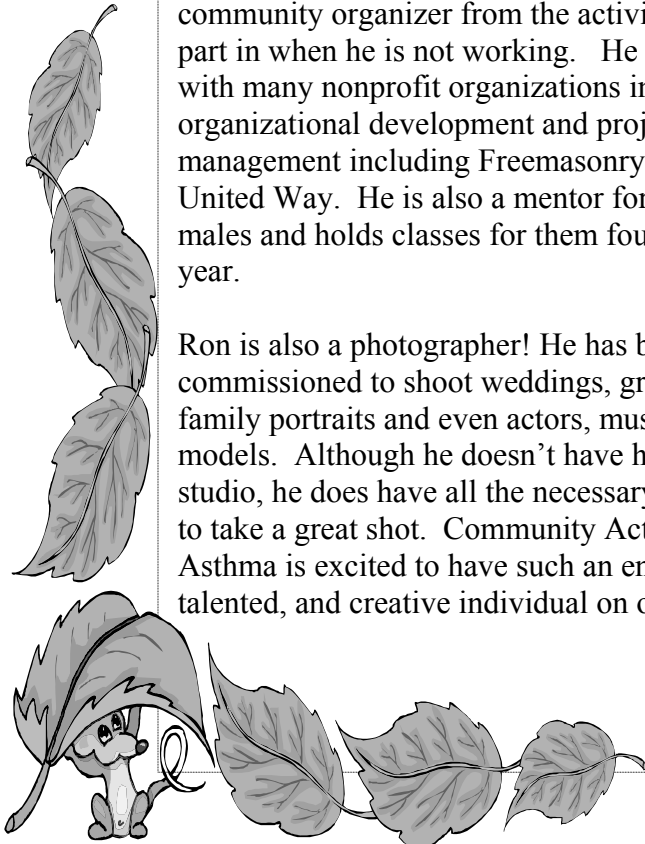
## COMMUNITY INFO-SHARING EVENT!

*Come hear what CAAA has learned about asthma!*

CAAA will hold community information-sharing sessions in January and February and you are encouraged to attend. They will be conveniently located with one of the Eastside and one on the Southwest side of Detroit.

The purpose of the forums is to report back to the community about information we have learned from the airwatch, diary, household visits, and indoor and outdoor air sampling. There will be chances for questions and comments from families at the forum. Finally, the new community organizing staff of CAAA will be introduced along with information about their progress and future activities. Families interested in getting involved in fighting against environmental threats that effect their child's health will be given a chance to sign up.

*Look for more details about this exciting event in the next newsletter.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Dinner Raffle!

We will be having a holiday raffle again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year! The winner will receive a turkey (uncooked) or ham with other foodstuffs for a delicious holiday dinner. To participate, just mail the address label of this newsletter to the address below no later than November 20<sup>th</sup>. Due to the time constraint, if you want to be included, please send in your address label right away! The winner will be drawn from a hat and will be notified by phone and/or mail.

**Community Action Against Asthma-Raffle**  
1420 Washington Heights, SPH II,

## Asthma Health Word Search

V U C H S G A R C R O S  
P E N S M D I T T C T U  
A O M N E A I G Y A R U  
R L H A S S E C E S E M  
L P F L R E G T A S T M  
U R M P H H G I A F U N  
S E F N M H F N A U M N  
M L I O I N T H C M Y E  
O D X I E N A A J E E N  
K U X T S I V L E K M E  
E S I C R E X E W R E N  
W T G A O Q C R N Q B X

Find the following asthma related words:

Breath smoke CES

inhaler action plan

exercise CAAA

dust vacuum

### Community Action Against Asthma

UM SPHII, Room M5146  
1420 Washington Heights  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029  
1-877-640-4064 (toll free)