

Foundations for Health

2008 Annual Report



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

www.accesskent.com/health



To the Citizens of Kent County:

2008 was a year of significant achievement for the Kent County Health Department. Despite a dismal economic climate, the department took calculated steps to lay foundations for programs and services that will impact our county for years to come.



Last year, we saw continued progress on the southeast side Human Services Complex that will house one of our clinics. Through the facility, area residents will have access to vital community services like the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) and immunizations. In the fall, workers completed construction of a state-of-the-art Animal Shelter. The facility is three times the size of the former shelter and includes amenities that will safeguard the health of animals and boost adoptions.

These are just a few of the ways that we are helping to build the foundation for a safe and healthy community. With this 2008 Annual Report, Foundations for Health, I am pleased to share with you information about the many good things that are happening in public health. At the same time, we must be realistic: We approach the coming year with a sense of cautious optimism. We know that a poor economy reinforces the need for public health initiatives that seek to prevent disease, rather than treat it, and we are working hard to fend off impending threats to public health funding.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the people involved in making public health viable in Kent County. First and foremost are the nearly 275 women and men who staff the Kent County Health Department. Without their dedication and passion for helping people, this public health department would not function. Also, thank you to County Administration and the Board of Commissioners. Their support on important issues and decisions is invaluable. Finally, my gratitude goes to the Community Health Advisory Committee. This team of community members helps shape and mold the direction of the Kent County Health Department and for that, I am grateful.

As we move forward, I welcome the challenges and opportunities that are in store for public health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Raevsky".

Cathy Raevsky
Administrative Health Officer



promote

Mission

The Kent County Health Department shall be responsive to the community health needs of the citizens of Kent County by continually and diligently endeavoring to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health.

prevent

Overview

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is responsible for continually assessing the health of the community and ensuring that mandated services are accessible for all residents. KCHD investigates the causes of disease, epidemics, morbidity and mortality, and environmental health hazards. The department plans and implements public education and enforces public health laws. KCHD assures provision of the following programs: vision and hearing screening, public water supplies, private and Type II groundwater supplies, food service sanitation, immunization, sexually transmitted diseases, on-site sewage disposal management, and general communicable disease control.

protect

accreditation

Local health department accreditation enhances the quality of Michigan health departments by identifying and promoting public health standards and evaluating and accrediting departments on their ability to meet these standards. This aids in continuous quality improvement, assures a uniform set of standards for core functions, and provides a mechanism for accountability.

In 2008, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) presented the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) with its Certificate of Accreditation. Throughout the accreditation process, KCHD staff worked tirelessly to meet and exceed requirements for core services like food sanitation and communicable disease control.

MDCH has a great collaborative relationship with Kent County. In August of last year, KCHD completed Round 3 of the accreditation process and Kent fared better than most other health departments overall.

Accreditation shows KCHD's ability to remain current regarding public health practice and enhances its reputation with the community, partners and stakeholders.

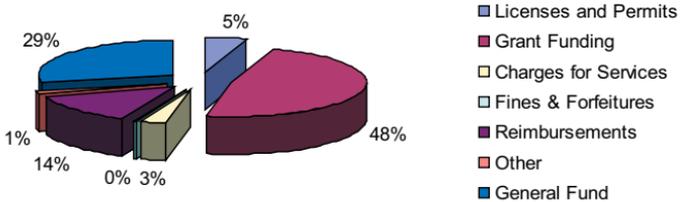
Right: Jean Chabut, Deputy Administrator for MDCH, presents Cathy Raevsky with KCHD's Certificate of Accreditation.



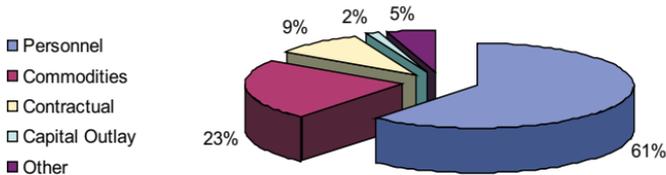
funding

Adequate public health funding has been a major challenge for federal, state, and local government over the past several years. KCHD has been unduly burdened by the cost of providing mandated core services like food service sanitation and communicable disease surveillance. Health department staff have proved extremely resourceful in their efforts to minimize the impact of budget shortcomings in the community. Adequate funding provides the foundation on which public health is built, and the rewards are many: dollars spent on prevention save people from footing the bill for the costlier option of treatment down the road. Over the next year, KCHD leadership will continue to fight for restored funding for public health services and programs.

2008 Revenues: \$27,363,256



2008 Expenses: \$27,363,256





Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Annex Building
700 Fuller Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Kent County Animal Shelter
740 Fuller Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



satellite clinics

Westside



Wyoming



Sheldon



Kentwood



North County





Administration is responsible for general oversight of the health department. This includes financial management, data processing, planning, and evaluation. Departments housed in this division include Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness, Finance, Healthy Kent 2010, Management Information Systems, Facilities Maintenance, Central Supply, Health Education and Promotion, and the Obesity Initiative.

2008 highlights

From funding to planning, Administration provides structure to overall operations at the health department. Last year, the division laid foundations for a healthy Kent County by...

... once again bringing the South East Area Farmers' Market to an area deemed a "food desert" for its lack of accessible produce. 2008 was the third year for the market.

... tracking and investigating the causes of 77 communicable diseases and reporting the findings to the State of Michigan.

... giving hundreds of presentations to schools and community groups on topics like dog bite prevention, sexual assault prevention, life skills, and more.

... increasing consistency and number of schools reporting weekly illness, due to implementation of an online reporting system and increasing communication with schools and superintendents.

... engaging community partners to develop a "push partner" registry that allows for swift dissemination of vaccine and medication for pandemic influenza.

... overseeing a county-wide Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, which asked 1,200 residents about behaviors and conditions that put them at risk for diseases and injuries. The results will help us gain a better understanding of the picture of health in Kent County.

... laying the foundations for new, user-friendly data technologies that will result in KCHD's increased ability to extract data, share information, and bill clients for services.

The South East Area Farmers' Market brings fruits and vegetables to an urban area that lacks affordable fresh produce.





Through its main clinic at 700 Fuller Avenue, NE in Grand Rapids and five satellite clinics throughout the County, **Community Clinical Services** prevents disease and promotes the health of residents through childhood immunization services, oversight of the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, and through Personal Health Services, including prevention, testing, and education related to sexually-transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and HIV.

2008 highlights

Community Clinical Services builds foundations for a healthy community through a variety of programs that detect and prevent disease, provide nutrition and education, and keep residents safe through immunizations. Last year, the division laid foundations for a healthy Kent County by...

...making major progress on a brand new building to house its Sheldon Clinic, which provides clients with access to a variety of health and human service agencies in one location.

...replacing WIC coupons with a debit-like card and upgrading software to increase efficiency for staff and clients.

...providing rapid HIV testing and education in a variety of community venues.

...surpassing state averages for percentage of infants ever breastfed, and percentage of women enrolled in the first trimester of pregnancy for the WIC program.

...performing 4,209 HIV tests. Of those found positive, 100% of clients underwent post-test counseling.

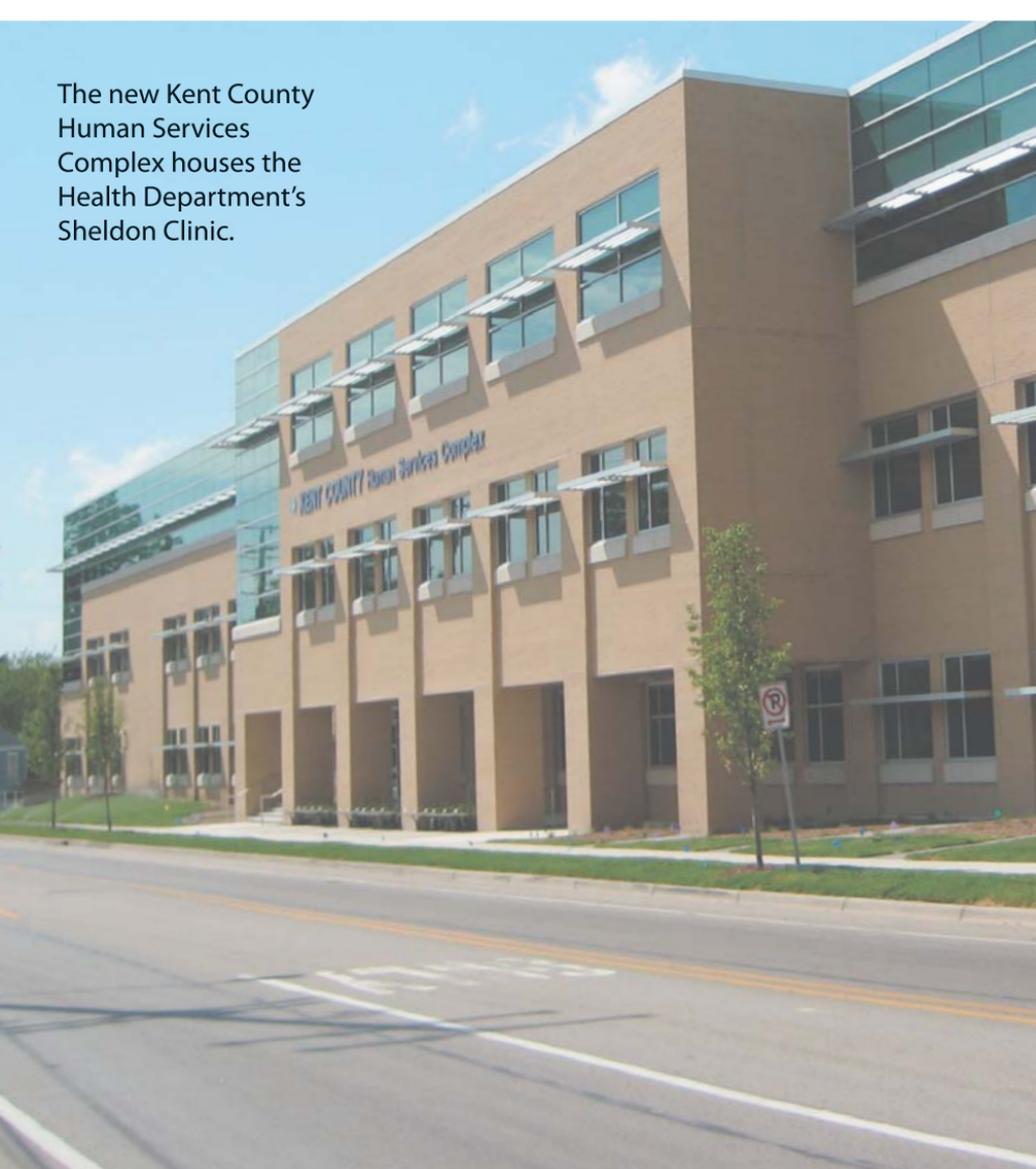
...administering 34,488 doses of vaccine at five clinics in the county.

...performing 3,684 tuberculosis skin tests.

...providing quality assurance and education in-services for 59 private vaccine providers in Kent County.

...implementing immunizations by appointment to improve the flow of traffic through clinics.

The new Kent County
Human Services
Complex houses the
Health Department's
Sheldon Clinic.





The diversity of responsibilities that fall under **Community Nursing** cannot be emphasized enough. Health services for refugees, case management for lead-poisoned children, home visits to moms-to-be, grief counseling for parents who have lost a child, and hearing and vision screening at all Kent County schools are just a few of the activities to emerge from this division.

2008 highlights

Community Nursing focuses largely on building healthy foundations for families in the community, by giving parents and children the tools they need for a healthy start in life. Last year, the division built foundations for the health of Kent County by...

...earning high marks for the first-ever site visit for Children's Special Health Care Services and securing assistance for people under the ages of 21 in accessing coverage and support for a wide range of chronic illnesses.

...implementing a new vision screening process to increase notification of follow up care received after referral for a potential vision problem.

...expanding its reach by scheduling appointments with clients who need help accessing Medicaid in the North County Clinic location.

...partnering with Administration to provide women who have experienced a poor pregnancy outcome with interconception care. This care focuses on getting women back on track and healthy to prevent poor outcomes in the future.

...seeing 70% of pregnant moms who smoked in the Maternal-Infant Health Program, KCHD's largest home visiting program, either quit smoking or reduce smoking by half.

...testing children for elevated blood-lead levels and helping residents prevent lead poisoning. Last year, KCHD saw 103 cases of lead poisoning in children living in the City of Grand Rapids. This reflects a major decline since 2001, when 465 children had elevated levels



Home-visiting programs provide children the foundation for a healthy start.



If you live in Kent County and own a dog, eat at a restaurant on occasion, or swim in a public pool, you've been effected in some way by **Environmental Health**. This division oversees the Animal Shelter, performs food safety inspections and general inspection for everything from public pools to child and adult care facilities. It also houses a state-of-the-art laboratory that performs HIV confirmation testing for almost the entire state of Michigan.

2008 highlights

Environmental Health impacts the community's health foundations in a very literal way. Last year, the division built foundations for the health of Kent County by...

...completing construction on the new, state-of-the-art animal shelter, which will help keep people safe from harm caused by animals and keep adoptable pets healthy and happy during their stay.

...placing 85 percent of adoptable dogs and 66 percent of adoptable cats in new homes.

...overseeing a FEMA grant to install up to three smoke and one carbon monoxide detectors in 800 Kent County homes.

...completing 4,888 inspections at 1,959 licensed food service establishments.

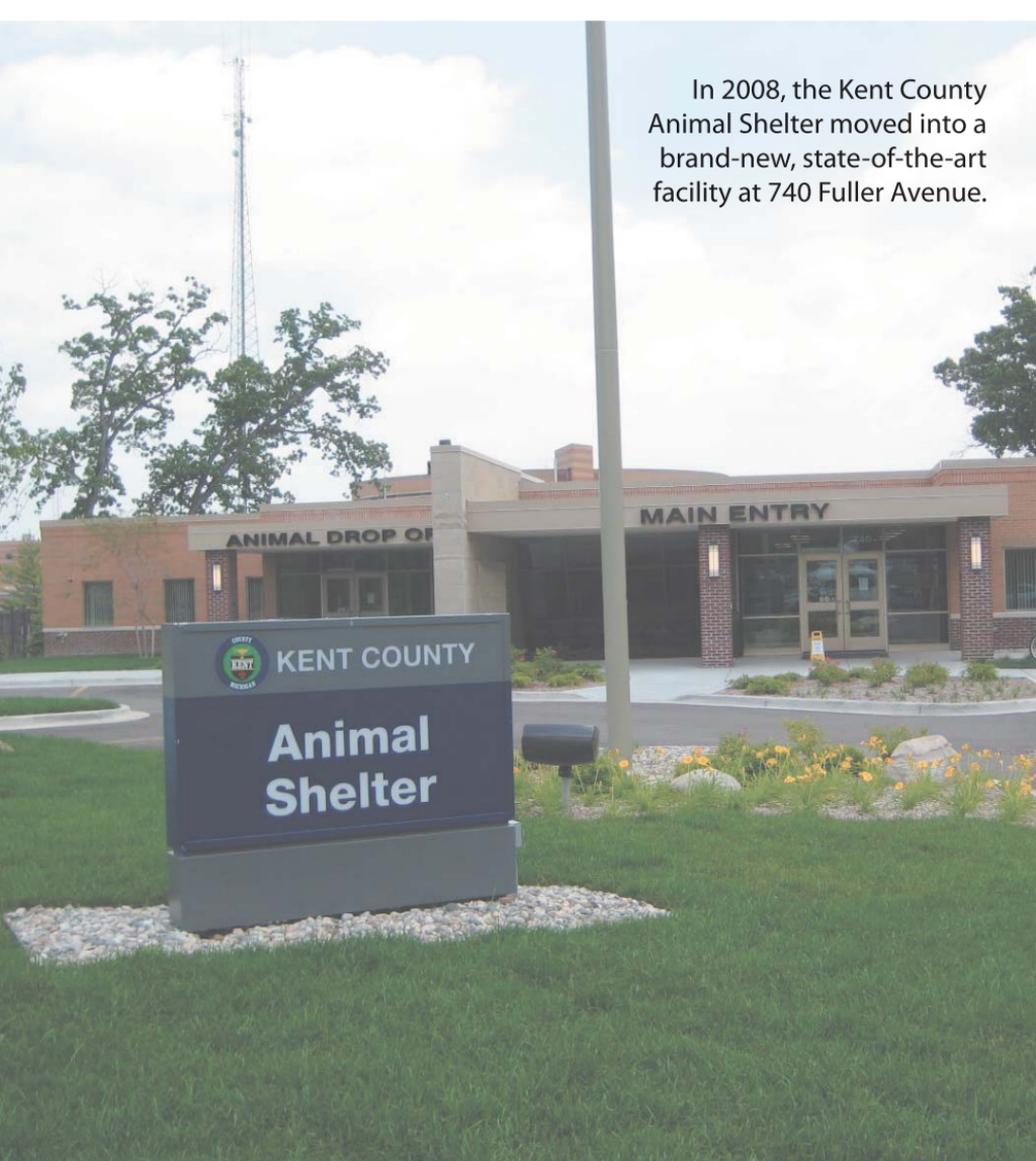
...performing confirmatory HIV testing for health departments across the state in its laboratory.

...increasing utilization of GIS and GPS technologies to improve service delivery.

...stepping up Animal Control enforcement activities in county and city parks to improve the overall experience of citizens using these parks.

...improving children's health by making homes healthier through "green cleaning" education and laying the groundwork for integrated pest management training.

In 2008, the Kent County Animal Shelter moved into a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility at 740 Fuller Avenue.



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champions technicians specialists coordinators

Prevent.



Bruce Kretowicz, Ann Ivy



Gov. Granholm, Christopher Bendekgey

Promote.



Hasina Bankston, Luz-Maria Diaz



Bridie Kent

Protect.

sanitarians nurses volunteers partners advocates
supervisors health educators



Veronica Constantine, Stephanie Ellinger



Shane Green

KCHD



Debbie Nolf



Rick Leach

technicians divisions directors administrators
champions technicians specialists coordinators

General Information... (616) 632-7100
Toll-Free... (888) 515-1300
Administration... (616) 632-7280
Animal Shelter... (616) 632-7300
Community Clinical Services... (616) 632-7203
Community Nursing... (616) 632-7058
Environmental Health... (616) 632-6900
Medical Examiner's Office... (616) 632-7247
Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Unit... (616) 632-7228
Personal Health Services... (616) 632-7171
Public Health Laboratory... (616) 632-7210
Central Supply (VFC Vaccines)... (616) 632-7073
Central Supply (Pamphlet and Video Library)... (616) 632-7074
Community Relations... (616) 632-7110
AIDS/HIV Testing... (616) 632-7171
Children's Special Health Care Services... (616) 632-7066
Health Education and Promotion... (616) 632-7290
Health Improvement Program... (616) 632-7290
Immunizations... (616) 632-7020
International Travel Immunization Clinic... (616) 632-6990
Maternal and Infant Health Program... (616) 632-7058
Public Health Laboratory... (616) 632-7210
Public Sanitation/Nuisance/Complaints... (616) 632-6900
Restaurant Licensing/Complaints... (616) 632-6900
Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic... (616) 632-7171
Tuberculosis Clinic... (616) 632-7190
Vision and Hearing Screening... (616) 632-7047
Well/Septic Permits... (616) 632-6900
Well Water Testing... (616) 632-6900 or (616) 632-7210
WIC... (616) 632-7200
Women's Health Network... (616) 632-7283

contact us

Check out KCHD online:
www.accesskent.com/health



Follow us on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/kchd



HEALTH
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leadership

Health Department Administrators

Administrative Health Officer: Cathy Raevsky

Medical Director: Mark Hall, M.D., M.P.H.

Deputy Administrative Health Officer: Bill Anstey

Finance Director: Gail Brink, C.P.A.

Community Clinical Services Division Director: Roberta Peacock, R.N., B.S.N.

Community Nursing Services Division Director: Sandra Walls, R.N., M.S.N.

Environmental Health Division Director: David Kraker, R.E.H.S./R.S.

Kent County Community Health Advisory Committee

Commissioner Jack Boelema – Chair

Suzan Couzens, RN

Candace Cowling

Sharon Handy, MD

Ronald Koehler, APR

Commissioner Harold J. Mast

Joseph Moore, M.D.

Lori Pearl-Kraus, Ph.D. – Vice Chair

Sharice Purman

Savator Selden-Johnson

Denise L. Zoeterman



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700 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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