



The BRIDGE

east bay community action program

THE BRIDGE to SELF-RELIANCE

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EBCAP Introduces Lead Education and Outreach Program

By Meghan McGrath

Lead poisoning is considered the most common children's environmental health issue today. Although lead-based paint was banned in the United States in 1978, children all over the country are still being poisoned. East Bay Community Action Program is taking steps to make lead-poisoning a problem of the past with the introduction of the Lead Education and Outreach Program in the upper and lower bay.



LEAD AWARENESS CLASS: Luana Cherenzia discusses dangers of lead paint at recent lead awareness workshop. (Photo by Maggie Laurianno)

In September 2006, EBCAP became a state certified lead center. Through this program, coordinated by Luana Cherenzia, services are provided to tenants and landlords in need of information regarding lead safety, abatement and RIHMFC loans for lead abatement.

The program is separated into two distinct areas: the **Comprehensive Lead Center** and the **Lead Education and Outreach Program**. The Lead Center receives referrals through the State of Rhode Island and offers services such as: cleaning supplies to temporarily fix lead paint problems, case management, help with lead abatement, and set up of loan processes. The Lead Center is currently able to bill for Medicaid clients, but are unable to bill private insurances.

The Lead Education and Outreach Program is funded by RI Housing through a HUD Grant and offers an array of services: A three-hour lead mitigation course, which

is now required for all landlords and realtors, will enable them to fix a few small lead hazards in the home. Lead 101 classes are offered to the entire community, often at local elementary schools and have also been used to educate EBCAP's Head Start Advocates. Outreach is done to the general community through health fairs and community events, and also to recruit contractors for RI Housing's lead abatement program.

Cherenzia completes the applications for the contractors and RI Housing sends them to school to get licensed for free. Outreach is Cherenzia's favorite part of the program, "Any type of outreach is great," she says, "I just love to get the information to people."

The most common cause of lead-poisoning in children is the chipping or peeling of lead-based paint on the interior and exterior of the home. When lead-based paint deteriorates it becomes lead paint chips, which may be eaten by children, and lead-contaminated paint dust, which can be ingested by children during normal teething, hand-mouth behavior, or by putting dusty items in their mouths.

Some dangers to children in an environment with lead-based paint include: Learning disabilities, brain damage, loss of IQ points and intellect, academic failure and neuropsychological deficits.

Other dangers are: Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), hyperactive behavior, antisocial (criminal) behavior, neurological problems, encephalopathy (brain swelling), major organ failure, coma, death.

Injuries may be life-threatening or can prevent a child from realizing their full

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CEO Corner

by Dennis Roy, Chief Executive Officer

EBCAP is seeking to determine interest in a new program that not only will help many residents in the east bay, but has global benefits as well. A recent article in the *Providence Journal* told of former Providence resident Bob Jeffrey, and his work to help make Relight NYC, the idea of New York City high school freshman Avery Hairston, a reality.

Avery's idea was to distribute as many free compact fluorescent light bulbs to low income residents of New York City as possible, to help them save not only on their energy bills, but also to help combat global climate change. A study showed that if only a few hundred thousand people change just one of their light bulbs to the energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs, the equivalent of the emissions of about 89,000 automobiles would be eliminated for a year.

Bob Jeffrey put the media and advertising skills of JWT together with the high school student's idea to help create Relight NYC and the program was launched.

Besides being the President of JWT, one of the top advertising agencies in the world, Bob was a La Salle Academy classmate of mine. I contacted him and we discussed bringing a similar program to Rhode Island. The staff at EBCAP is currently looking at putting together a program that will bring together a group of young people to distribute the energy saving light bulbs to elderly housing complexes and other public housing sites throughout our service area.

While still in its early stages, the program not only has its energy savings and climate change concepts, it also provides a valuable experience for our young people, giving them experience in business, the environment and helping others.

A committee of staff members has been meeting to discuss the program and bring together a group of young people to form an advisory board for Relight Rhode Island.

We will continue to provide updates on the progress of this program, and how you can help, through our monthly E-news.



DENNIS ROY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Storytellers Entertain at Head Start

By David Howard

Everybody loves to hear stories, and the youngsters filling seats at the Head Start classroom on Willett Avenue in East Providence in late August were no different as they listened to some great tales told by Mark Binder, one of Rhode Island's favorite storytellers.

EBCAP's Head Start program sponsored Binder's visit as a pre-start of school treat for youngsters.

Another story hour was held at the Chafee Boulevard Head Start Classroom in Newport, featuring Len Cabral, another well-known Rhode Island storyteller.

Binder showed off his talents on the harmonica playing some favorite songs and moved right into everyone's favorite story, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, but with some special twists in the story that kept everyone listening. Binder has a unique style that pulls the listener into the story. His voice sort of rolls through



the story, in descending and sometime ascending tones, going from a whisper to a shout in the blink of an eye.

STORYTELLER Mark Binder entertains children and parents at a story hour at the Willett Avenue Center Head Start Classroom to mark the start of a new school year. (Photo by David Howard)

The three bears end up chasing a bratty Goldilocks around their house, eventually catching her and making her responsible for all the things she broke. A fun story, with a moral as well.

From the traditional to the far-fetched, Binder took youngsters back to the Wild, Wild West for the story of Bad Breath Bob, who saves a town and wins the heart of the Mayor's daughter, despite a bad case of halitosis.

Binder's appearance for EBCAP, was, in a sense a homecoming, as he is a past director of the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless.

Not only were children treated to some fun stories, Head Start provided refreshments and a goody bag full of great things for school and a fun pack of toys for each one of them.

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Lead Education and Outreach (Continued from page 1)

potential and becoming a self-sufficient adult. So how can you eliminate lead-based paint on your home? "Abatement usually consists of replacing windows, fixing deteriorating paint, and fixing bare soil within five feet of a house or any other structure on a property and children's play areas," Cherenzia explains.

Even though the risks and dangers associated with lead-based paint are known and programs like EBCAP's are being offered, about 80% of the housing stock in Rhode Island still has lead paint, and the rate of lead-poisoning in Rhode Island is two times higher than the national average, according to Cherenzia.

While the state still has a long way to go, Cherenzia is proud of Rhode Island. "We have come to a point now where we want to prevent lead poisoning and that is why my work is so exciting because it is on the proactive side," she says, "With organizations like EBCAP who are willing to do these services for free, it is clear that we are really on a campaign to help people."

Many Enjoy a Cool Night of Jazz at the 2007 Seaside Gala



◀ **JAZZ THEME:** The theme of the Gala was carried out in the table decorations, including photos of jazz greats like Dizzy Gillespie playing at the Newport Jazz Festival by noted photographer John Corbett.



▲ **ENJOYING GALA:** Staff from Newport Collaborative Architects attended the Seaside Gala and enjoyed dinner and music.



▲ **SUNSET DANCING:** Board of Directors secretary Cheryl Abney and her husband Marvin enjoy a dance as the sun sets over the bay.

SILENT AUCTION FUN: Renate Marek and MaryBeth Manuel, both of BankNewport, look over bids on some of the silent auction items.



Gala Photography
© Charles R. Estabrooks, www.estabrooks.org

Vision Award Recipient Honored by President



AWARD RECIPIENT: Sherrill Estes, center, is shown receiving one of the 2007 Vision Awards from CEO Dennis Roy and COO Susan Schenck. (Photo by Charles Estabrooks)

East Bay Community Action Program Vision Award winner Sherrill Estes gained an even bigger honor when she was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush, during his visit to Newport in June.

Estes, a Tiverton resident, was cited both by EBCAP, and President Bush for her work at the food pantry in Tiverton operated by EBCAP. In the past six years, she's volunteered 1,800 hours at the food pantry. Karen Izzo, Director of Social Services in the lower bay, praised Estes as a dedicated and reliable volunteer, as well as a humble, kind and compassionate person."

Her volunteer work involves stocking shelves, filling cartons and distributing food packages to persons and families in need.

She said the President shook her hand, congratulated her, gave her a hug and a lapel pin, asking her to help others to become volunteers.

"You need to keep active, volunteering keeps you going," Estes said in an interview a few days after receiving the Presidential honor.

EBCAP Health Care Programs Gain JCAHO Re-accreditation

The health care program at East Bay Community Action Program has been re-accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) this past summer.

"We are certainly proud of this accomplishment," Dennis Roy, EBCAP CEO said upon receiving notification of the accreditation. "I know our entire health and dental staff has worked hard to uphold JCAHO's requirements, while meeting the needs of our clients. Stephanie McCaffrey, our health administrator, has been closely involved in this reaccreditation process."

JCAHO accredits about 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United

States and is the nation's predominant standards setting and accreditation body in health care.

It mandates state of the art standards that focus on improving the quality and safety of care provided by health care organizations.

JCAHO's comprehensive accreditation process evaluates an organization's compliance with these standards and other accreditation requirements.

This accreditation is recognized nationally as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

Meghan McGrath Joins EBCAP Development Department

EBCAP welcomes Meghan McGrath, a new staff member to the Development and Public Relations Department.



MEGHAN MCGRATH
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

McGrath is a 2007 graduate of Salve Regina University, with a degree in English Communications. In school, much of her coursework focused on Public Relations and Journalism. During her senior year she completed an internship for the

Alzheimer's Prize Foundation for the Cure where she was required to promote the organization and raise funds through cold calls to local businesses.

When asked why she was interested in working for a non-profit organization like EBCAP she replied "I want to do something that makes a difference." This wouldn't be the first time she has done that. Besides the internship with the Alzheimer's Foundation, during her high school years at Barnstable High School in Massachusetts she volunteered for Hospice and Palliative Care of Cape Cod.

We are pleased to have her join our team as a Development Associate.



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www.ebcap.org

Current Resident or:

Milton Rogers Brings Many Interests, Caring to EBCAP Board

by Maggie Laurianno

This is the first in a series of articles that will profile the members of EBCAP's Board of Directors.



BOARD MEMBER:
Milton Rogers balances career, family and service to EBCAP.
(Photo by Maggie Laurianno)

It didn't take Milton Rogers long to realize that being a member of the East Bay Community Action Program Board of Directors was the right place for him. He joined the board in the spring of 2005 at the urging of fellow Board member, Jane Koster and after

a meeting with the agency's Director of Development, the late Denise Martin.

As a top salesman of luxury automobiles, Rogers interacts daily with individuals who are on the opposite end of the economic spectrum compared to clients served by EBCAP's many programs. He describes himself as "caring, loving, and devoted to my family," and says that he is "someone who wants to help others and be part of their success." He believes strongly in EBCAP's mission and its services and cited as an example EBCAP's work done through Newport's Hope VI Program, that changed the face of public housing, stating how, through case management, "individuals and families have learned, grown, and improved their lives."

He sees the benefits of being a board member as providing him with "an opportunity to be part of something positive and important." And, as a board member

he feels that it is his responsibility to "understand the services offered and be able to share information with others in the community."

Rogers has been an avid supporter of EBCAP's special events — attending every Seaside Gala since joining the board and assisting in promoting the events and securing items for the auctions. The special events seem to reaffirm his conviction in EBCAP's work and its place in the community. "When I attend the events and see all the individuals, businesses, and organizations associated with EBCAP I realize that they believe in the work we're doing," he said.

For the past eight years Rogers has worked as a Client Advisor at BMW of Newport. There he enjoys status as top salesperson, not only at his dealership, but also in *all of New England* (an honor he has achieved for the last two years, selling 240 vehicles last year). Such success has earned him accolades and incentive awards from BMW — including a stunning Rolex watch and family vacations to Chicago, Florida, and Hawaii. Asked what sets him apart from other Client Advisors, he listed these qualities: "personality, commitment, drive, competitiveness, and consistency." Rogers confessed, "I'm not a car guy. Some people are really into cars. That's not me," adding, though, that he "most enjoys building relationships and getting to know his clients."

While he isn't into cars, the mere mention of football brings a big smile to his face. He spent 22 years of his life playing football — from age eight through his high school and college years, and then on to NFL camps and semi-professional football, where he played as a cornerback. It was an acquaintance of

his during his football years who introduced him to car sales, and he found his niche. Prior to working at BMW, Milton worked for three years (and was also a top salesman) for Chrysler.

When he's not working at BMW or meeting with EBCAP's Board, Rogers likes to relax by going fishing. "I enjoyed the lavish vacations from BMW, but my dream vacation is in a cabin on a lake where I can go fresh water fishing," he said. He also keeps fit by weightlifting. In fact, in 2002 he won a bench contest in Lawrence, MA by pressing 375 pounds. He continues to lift, though not competitively, today. He says he likes to "keep it [the weights] moderate — around 275."

He and his wife, Lisa, live in Wakefield with their daughter, Kaliagh, 14, and son Jobie Lewis, two months. They also have a son, Milton Jr., 21, who serves in the United States Coast Guard in Provincetown, MA. He talks with great pride about his children — his toddler son who keeps everyone running, his daughter, the cheerleader, who is gainfully employed in her first job, and his oldest son, who also played football, and is about to be promoted to Petty Officer this month. "He doesn't know it yet, but Lisa and I will be traveling to Provincetown to see him receive his promotion," Rogers said.

Milton Rogers hopes to open his children's eyes to others who are less fortunate through his involvement at EBCAP. "I want them to know that there are people who need and deserve our help... Someday, when I'm gone, I'd like my children to look back on my life and say 'he worked hard, loved his family and cared about people,'" he said.