

GLLEN FAMILY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY 1 YEAR TO THE GLLEN FAMILY WORK GROUP!

APRIL 2025



HAPPY 1 YEAR!

We can't believe we are celebrating our **one year** anniversary of starting the GLLEN Family Work Group! It has been very robust! We have **4 organizations** and we have over **20 families** who attend the meetings from the great lakes region. The Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network continues to add families. We invite you to join our space and voice your ideas to end childhood lead poisoning around the Great Lakes.

We feel it's important to provide a space for parents and family members whose loved ones have been impacted by lead poisoning and connect with your peers. This space is also available to help bring support and conversation around *advocacy and policy strategies, learn from one another's experiences, celebrate lead education week, and so much more.*

If you are interested in joining go to the following bit.ly/leadparentgroup



Community Spotlight – COFI Empowering Change

Recent Activities:

Our recent COFI sessions have been filled with valuable learning and collaborative action. Participants in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been actively engaged in the following activities:

- Building Support Systems: Phase 1 participants have been working on strengthening their personal "villages" and utilizing their support networks to achieve their goals.
- Community Visioning: Phase 2 participants have been collaborating to define a shared vision for a family-friendly community and identify actionable steps to achieve it.
- Action Planning: Phase 2 has selected a project to focus on, "Felony Friendly Jobs to the Community (Employment Opportunities for Returning Citizens)", and have been creating scripts to engage the community about this project.
- Skill Building: All participants have been practicing active listening, storytelling, and community engagement techniques.
- MI-LIFT Integration: COFI workshops are integrating the MI-LIFT Community Public Health Education Training Program into the workshop.

Upcoming Events:

We are excited to announce the COFI graduation celebration on March 6th, 2025. This event will celebrate the accomplishments of our participants and highlight the impact of their work. We also have our next Ambassadors Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with COFI graduation on March 6, 2025.

Get Involved:

The COFI program is a vital part of our efforts to create a healthier and more empowered community. If you are interested in learning more about COFI or other opportunities to get involved with the Healthy Homes Coalition of West MI-Grand Rapids, please contact Samika Douglas at samika@hhcwm.org.

Funding and Support: The Healthy Homes Coalition of West MI-Grand Rapids is grateful for the continued support of our funders and community partners, which make programs like COFI possible. We believe that by working together, we can create a brighter future for all residents of West Michigan.



Funding for Lead



MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Ecology Center is working with partners in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Delta and Menominee Counties. Issues around transportation and childcare are always at the forefront of families' needs, therefore it is important for the Ecology Center to make the training easily accessible virtually. Since the Ecology Center is working with partners in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Delta and Menominee Counties we want to provide a larger reach and give families easier access to the training. Issues around transportation and childcare are always at the forefront of families' needs, therefore it was super important for us to make the training easily accessible!

Towards the end of the program, families will create an **action project** using the education they gained and share the project within their communities. A graduation ceremony will be held for all of the participants. Participants will receive a **\$50.00 stipend** for each training completed. They will be invited to join the steering committee and help implement the second group which is scheduled for 2026.

We extend our gratitude to the **Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Delta and Menominee County Public Health Department, Parents for Healthy Homes and Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan** for supporting the program and recruiting 100% of its participants. We also want to thank the **Michigan Health Endowment Fund** for providing a grant to cover all program costs.

Stay tuned for more updates!

APRIL 2025

Community Events



2025 Lead Education Day registration in Michigan!

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 15th annual Lead Education Day! For the past 14 years, the **Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes** has hosted this free event in Lansing (and now virtually) to help end lead poisoning. Families of sickened children, healthcare professionals, building contractors, and concerned residents come together to talk to our state lawmakers about the threats of lead poisoning and what they can do to stop them. These efforts have helped secure millions of dollars in funding and pass better health laws.

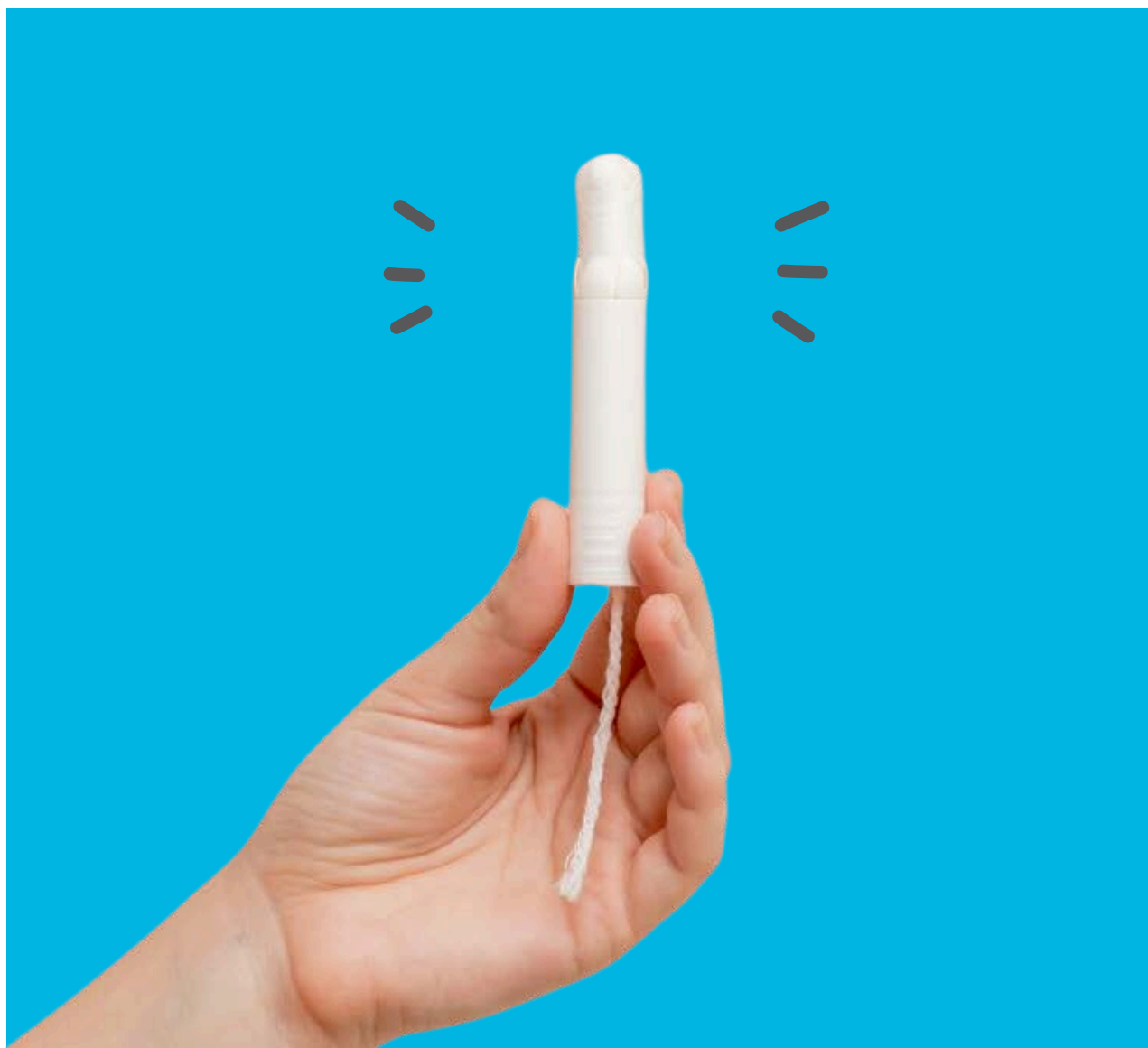
Lead Education Day will take place on **Tuesday, May 6th virtually and Wednesday, May 7th in Lansing, Michigan (Lansing Center)**. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** both days. You can sign up for one day or both.

Prior to Lead Education Day, we'll host orientation sessions. You'll get essential information on lead poisoning; you'll get to know your fellow participants, and you'll get to know how we, in groups, will engage lawmakers.

Please direct any registration questions or other needs to Samantha Pickering with the Michigan Environmental Council:
samantha@environmentalcouncil.org

[Link to register here!](#)

Lead Recall



If you purchased tampons in the past, you may have been exposed to lead! A recent study found traces of heavy metals, including lead in some of the leading tampon brands! This has raised serious concerns and questions about the safety of these products. This has left people questioning the potential harm lead toxicity can cause. Wouldn't you want to know if lead was found in your tampons?

We encourage you to do your own research and find out which feminine products have been studied or exposed for lead!

For more information about this article please visit:
[Tampon Lead Poisoning Class Action Lawsuit Investigation.](#)

Kid's Corner

How to Stay Safe from Lead.

Instructions: Find your word! Words can be forward or backward, up or down!

CLEANAREAS

CLEANTOYS

GRASSYAREA

LEADTEST

WASHHANDS

UPEPEFIHVD

CLEANAREAS

EHJKYJGMAL

SDNAHHSAWA

ORLQNTXMLO

QBQMJVVTKC

CLEANTOYSC

AERAYSSARG

TSETDAELMU

The Handwashing Song!

(To the tune of Row Your Boat)

Wash, Wash,
Wash Your Hands
Make them nice and clean
Rub the bottoms
And the tops
And fingers in between



Healthy Recipe

Ants On A Log

Ingredients:

- Peanut Butter
- Celery
- Raisins

1. Wash your hands before starting.
2. Run the water for a minute before using it to flush the line.
3. Use the cold water for washing veggies.
4. Wash one or two stalks of celery.
5. Have a big person cut them into 3 inch pieces.
6. Spoon the peanut butter into the grooves of the celery.
7. Add as many raisins on top of the peanut butter as you would like.

