

GLLEN FAMILY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY GLLEN WORKGROUP ANNIVERSARY!

APRIL 2026

Happy 2 Year Anniversary Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network Family Workgroup!



Happy two-year anniversary of starting the Great Lakes Lead Elimination (GLLEN) Family Workgroup! We have over four organizations and over 10 families who attend the workgroup meetings. 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, and celebrate Lead Education Week.

We invite you to join our space and voice your ideas to end childhood lead poisoning around the Great Lakes. **Meetings are held once a month on the second Monday of the month.** Reach Meli melissag@ecocenter.org or Robin projectinfo216@gmail.com for more information.

Rising star fighting to end lead poisoning!



Michelle Eason is an advocacy professional at Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan (HHCWM). HHCWM is committed to advancing equitable policies and amplifying underrepresented voices. Michelle has worked in an administrative capacity for three years at the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County and has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a concentration in Addiction Studies. Michelle advocates for strengthening communities through awareness, education, empowerment, and collective action.

Michelle Eason is dedicated to standing in the gap for individuals and communities whose voices often go unheard. Michelle is passionate about transforming lived experiences into informed advocacy that shapes meaningful reform. Michelle works alongside mission-driven organizations to strengthen programs, build substantial partnerships, and create sustainable impact in our communities. Her leadership style is what drives her to push for successful outcomes. Michelle believes that when people come together with purpose and passion, powerful change happens.

Thank you, Michelle, for all that you do!

It's time to register for Lead Education day in Lansing, Michigan.



The **Michigan Alliance for Safe Homes** is hosting Lead Education Day for its 16th year! Together, lead-impacted families, healthcare professionals, building contractors, and concerned residents come to the **Lansing Capitol Building** to talk with 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 be on **May 13, 2026**, at the **Lansing Capitol Building!** We will meet with legislators from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** and **1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Before **Lead Education Day**, we'll host an orientation and training session for all interested participants. You will get information on lead poisoning; you'll get to meet your fellow participants, and you'll get to know how we, in groups, will engage lawmakers.

Questions?

Contact Samantha Pickering with the Michigan Environmental Council:
samantha@environmentalcouncil.org

Lead Education Program in Michigan!



**MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Ecology Center kicked off its second cohort for the **Lead Impacted Families Together Michigan (LIFT-MI) program!** The LIFT-MI training program is a public health program designed to train families on lead poisoning prevention education. Some of the topics covered include identifying lead hazards in the home, lead safe gardening, civic-engagement, nutrition, and more.

The unique part about **LIFT-MI is that it is 100% on-line** with some in-person options. At the end of the program, families have the opportunity to create an Action Project with the information they learned and share the project back with their communities. A graduation ceremony will be held for all of the participants. In addition, all program participants will receive a \$50.00 stipend for each training session completed and will be invited back to join the Steering Committee to assist in giving feedback and guidance on the program structure.

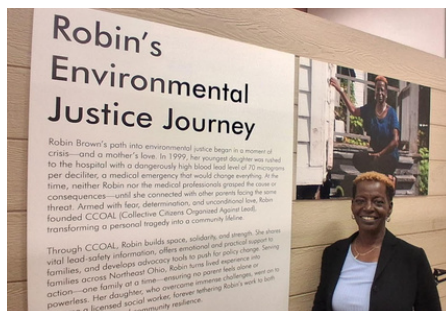
The Ecology Center wants to thank the **Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Delta and Menominee County Public Health Department, Parents for Healthy Homes, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, and our two new partners, Detroit's Working for Environmental Justice and CLEARCorps Detroit,** for their support and for recruiting 100% of our program participants.

Thanks to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for funding this program!

A legacy to the land in Ohio.

CCOAL is excited to be working with **redhouse Studio** and **My Grow Connect Mycotecture** project to work on mycelium (fungi) and soil remediation.

Mycelium is being used as a new way to help heal soil contaminated by lead and other contaminants. Mycelium has been known to reduce contaminants like heavy metals and can even help eliminate lead.



CCOAL invites you to attend their **mushROOM Mixers** that focus on ecological restoration and community health. These events utilize a unique mycelium-build recording booth to gather stories regarding environmental justice. Participants will engage in hands-on activities such as mycotecture cultivation, herbal tea blending, and interactive discussions about removing heavy metals from the local landscape. The sessions are specifically designed to educate the public on lead poisoning prevention and the biological potential of fungi in healing urban environments.

For more information, contact Robin Brown, projectinfo216@gmail.com.

2026 ROOTS & REMAINS WORKSHOP SERIES DATES AND TIMES AT THE CLEVELAND LIBRARY (RICE BRANCH)!

The Chelation CoLab (March 20, 2026) 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Participants will explore mycotecture cultivation and environmental detoxification. The session focuses on "chelation," which refers to the process of removing metals from both the body and the environment.

Sipping SovereignTEA: Tea Leaves of Liberation (April 17, 2026) 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM:

As part of the Lead-Free Living Lab, attendees will create herbal blends while discussing themes of community sovereignty and health liberation

Symbiotic Solutions (May 8, 2026) 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: This session highlights the symbiotic relationships between humans, plants, and fungi, demonstrating how these partnerships can foster community resilience and regeneration.

Kid's Corner

Are you looking for a **fun** way to get your kiddos to fight lead poisoning with food? Try a family fun smoothie!

Check out this recipe below.

Berry Banana Lead-Defense Smoothie (Calcium + Vitamin C + Iron)

Ingredients

- 1 banana
- ½ cup strawberries or blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- ½ cup plain yogurt
- ½ cup milk (or calcium-fortified plant milk)
- 1 handful fresh spinach (optional)

Why does this recipe help fight off lead poisoning?

- Yogurt → calcium blocks lead absorption
- Berries → vitamin C boosts iron uptake
- Spinach → iron source



APRIL 2026



SHARE YOUR STORY ON OUR PODCAST ABOUT LEAD POISONING!

Participation

We are looking for 1-3 persons to share a story on how lead poisoning has impacted their lives.

Why share your story?

- Your story can impact the lives of so many from all walks of life
- It is super impactful to hear directly from the person directly impacted
- Sharing your story helps others not feel alone

Requirements

1. Commit to participating in at least 1 podcast virtually (20 minutes).
2. Join your program leader for one practice session with the Learning Disabilities Association of America staff.
3. Must be a current or past member of one of the Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network groups (C.O.L.E., L.D.A., C.C.O.A.I, Lead Safe Cleveland, Lead Safe NY, Clean + Healthy, Healthy Homes Coalition of West MI, Parents for Healthy Homes, and more). For a full list of our partners visit, <https://www.ecocenter.org/our-work/ending-lead-poisoning/great-lakes-lead-elimination-network/gllen-partners>

Stipend

Up to three parents needed!
\$50.00

LDA Podcast Website

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1133861/follow>

Contact your program leader or Meli X. Garcia, Lead Poisoning Prevention Director melissag@ecocenter.org

