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CHEER is now posting fact sheets about our community health summits on our Web site in order to further our outreach. Check out, “Health Assets and Challenges of 38126,” “Quality of Life Aspects and Challenges of 38126,” and “Partnership Opportunities with Residents of 38126” by going to http://www.uthsc.edu/CHEER/community-engagement.php.

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Wishing you the best,

Shelley I. White-Means, Ph.D.
Executive Director, CHEER

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SAV THE DATE
CHEER Seminar
What Is CHEER Doing to Address Health Disparities? How Do You Fit In?
May 4, 2012 • Noon - 1 p.m.

Presenter
Dr. Shelley White-Means
Executive Director, CHEER

Location
UTHSC Student-Alumni Center
800 Madison Ave., Room 313
Memphis, Tenn. 38163

www.uthsc.edu/CHEER
CHEER Talks

Why Do You Want to be a Lay Health Worker?

Because it allows me to serve congregants of the city of Memphis and become aware of health disparities that occur within my city
- Lauren Russell

Because I want to affect my community in a positive way
- James Winters

So that I can help educate disadvantaged people about the importance of living healthier lives
- Lisa Evans-Smith

Because I want to contribute in a meaningful way to the betterment of health in the Memphis community through an organization that I know truly cares
- Okoia Uket

So that I can help make a difference in people’s lives who may not have the essential resources needed to pursue happiness
- LaMarcus Wingate

Summer Reading

Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself and the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future
by Harriet Washington

Harriet Washington is a member of the CHEER National Advisory Board. Her new book takes a look at the medical needs of the developing nations of Asia and Africa, which have long been ignored. Below are a few of her insights on medications for developing countries.

Only four of the 1,233 medications developed by pharmaceutical companies between 1975 and 1997 were developed to prevent diseases common to the tropics. In the United States, the production of new medications has slowed to a trickle, with less than 20 being brought to market each year. Even with this slow development, Americans increasingly struggle to afford these expensive medications.

In response, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has brokered partnerships against leprosy, guinea worm and other serious diseases of the developing world. As a result, more than 1.4 million doses of medication have been sent to those infected.

This year The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria celebrates a decade of contributing medicines and expertise that have saved millions of lives. Over the last decades, several new alliances of such organizations as GAVI, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization have provided medications against such killers. These organizations have worked for decades to bring medical help to people of the developing world. Now there is a significant new player: Pharmaceutical companies, which have partnered to develop cheap, low-maintenance forms of vaccines and other drugs for the medically marginalized.

This alternative model of global action is welcome as it provides lifesaving medications to people who need them.

To read more about Harriet Washington’s insights, read her full article on the CHEER Web site at www.uthsc.edu/CHEER/. Get her new book, Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself and the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future, at select bookstores and on Amazon.com (ISBN-10: 0385528922).

The map above depicts differences in cancer mortality rates across zip codes of Shelby County. It was found that predominantly African-American communities in Shelby County, such as South Memphis (38109) and Frayser (38127), suffer higher rates of mortality. For example, a recent study conducted by the Sinai Urban Health Institute in Chicago found that African-American women in Memphis are more than twice as likely to die from breast cancer as their white counterparts. The study also found that among the 25 largest U.S. cities, Memphis had the greatest disparity in mortality outcomes between white and African-American women with regard to breast cancer.

Generally speaking, the twentieth century saw great advances in the treatment of diseases such as cancer. However, not all Americans have experienced equal health outcomes. Among all types of cancer, African-Americans experience a higher mortality rate from the disease, despite having a lower likelihood of developing it in many cases.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “increasing early cancer detection, promoting healthy lifestyles, and expanding access to health care help reduce inequalities in cancer among groups at greatest risk.” This is especially critical for African-Americans in order to reduce cancer deaths – early detection is the key.

For information on how to reduce your cancer risk and other questions about cancer, please call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit its Web site at www.cancer.org.

Check out CHEER on Facebook:
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The State of Cancer Now — Know Your Risks

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Congratulations to the following churches located in the 38126 zip code area that have participated in both the CHEER Health Assessment and Intervention Activities.

• New Salem Baptist Church - (Pastor) - Mary Moore
• New Song Baptist Church - (Pastor) - Rev. Marty Holman
• First Baptist Church Lauderdale - (Pastor) - Dr. Noel G. L. Hutchinson

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Greetings from the Executive Director

This newsletter is supported by award number P20MD005118 from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views and does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views and does not necessarily represent the official views and does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views and does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors.

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