

# Inter\*Actions

Ionia County Child, Family & Community Council (616) 527-5229

## 2010 Census: It's in our Hands

**By Leigha Christensen**

In 2010, The U.S. Census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. The Census is a snapshot of the United States, it is a count of everyone residing in the U.S.: in all 50 states, Washington, D.S, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Island, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

The 2010 census is different than the last census. During the 2000 Census, one in six households received a long questionnaire asking for detailed socioeconomic information. In 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire that is simple and only takes about five minutes to complete. More detailed information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau does not - and can not - release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household.

It is very important that everyone is counted in Ionia County. This data determines funding for all funding sources including community development block grants. It also determines legislation and where to build buildings and roads. The goal is to reach all of the people possible.

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. The Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. According to Michigan Works, the Census Bureau utilized the Ionia Michigan Works Service Center to test potential employees for available positions with the Census Bureau. Out of 78 tested, 22 Ionia county residents were hired. Positions may still be available in other locales.

The Census Bureau would like everyone to put their address on their house and not just on their mail box. They also would like everyone to spread the word about the importance of filling out the Census survey.



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## Free fluoride treatments available for kids

A twice-yearly fluoride varnish can give children a fighting chance against a widespread preventable disease: tooth decay.

That varnish treatment is available free through the Michigan Department of Community Health. It is expected to provide more than 17,000 varnish applications to the teeth of more than 8,000 Medicaid-eligible children during fiscal year 2008-09.



"Tooth decay can easily be prevented with proper care, but many of Michigan's children do not have access to this care and develop dental disease early in life," said Janet Olszewski, director of MDCH, which expects the treatments to reduce up to 60 percent of tooth decay in children who participate in the program.

The topical varnish is a protective coating painted on teeth to help prevent new cavities and stop the ones that have started from gaining new ground on children's teeth. The sticky fluoride attaches easily to the teeth and hardens the outer layer of the teeth -- the enamel. This staves off cavities.

A small disposable brush is used to paint the varnish onto the teeth. The varnish releases fluoride over several months, which strengthens the teeth. The varnish is recommended for children of all ages, including infants. Applications can help children get an early start warding off other oral-related diseases, including gingivitis. Dental diseases can be prevented. These diseases can also be associated with other health problems. This initiative is truly a preventative effort for future ailments. If you or your organization would like to know more about the free fluoride varnish available from the State of Michigan Department of Community Health contact Susan Deming, R.D.H., B.S. at 517-373-3624 or [demings@michigan.gov](mailto:demings@michigan.gov).

### INTER\*ACTIONS

Inter\*Actions is published by the Ionia County Child, Family & Community Council on a quarterly basis. It is written and edited by the ICCFCC Training & Information Committee, which includes:

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Mary McGuire, Cari O'Connor, Stacy Moore, Shirley Pyle,  
Sherri Royer, and Linda Tower.*

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Feedback may be sent to: 920 E. Lincoln, Ionia, MI 48846 or you may call 527-5229.

# ICAN



(Ionia County Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)

## Annual Luncheon And Person of the Year Awards

April 23, 2009 ~ 11:30am – 2pm  
Ionia County Intermediate School District

RSVP: to Kristin Yalacki – [kyalacki@ioniacounty.org](mailto:kyalacki@ioniacounty.org) or Dana Beech – [dbeeche@ioniaisd.org](mailto:dbeeche@ioniaisd.org)

Each year ICAN honors two outstanding individuals, one from an area agency and one from the general community, who have contributed in a special way to the children and families of Ionia County. As described by the ICAN council, a nominee may be “a volunteer, a professional, or both who has gone out of his or her way to help better the lives of our families.”

This year the nominees in the Agency Person of the Year category are: **Noelle Lago** and **Ben Bookie** of DHS, **Megan Flannigan** of Lutheran Child & Family Service, **Katie Magnuson**, inter-agency wraparound coordinator, **Stacie Weitting** of Threshold Academy, **Bruce Chadwick** of Saranac Community Schools, **Becky Kaechele** of the Ionia County ISD A<sup>2</sup> program, and **Angie Miller** of Ionia County CMH. The nominees in the Community Person of the Year category are: **Karen Reisbig** for her service to Toys for Tots and the BMX program, **Dr. Charles R. Barker, Jr.** for his volunteer reading to elementary students, coaching youth league sports, and providing free sports physicals, **Sharon Droste** for her volunteering teaching swimming lessons at the YMCA, and **Roger Hull** for his mentoring and ongoing support for a struggling teen and his family.

The winners of this year’s awards will be announced at the ICAN Annual Luncheon on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ionia County ISD from 11:30am – 2pm. There will also be a program provided by Tim Cusack whose website states, “Laughter that matters”. Tim is quoted as saying, “First and foremost, I believe it's who we are that we bring to what we do. During my presentations I want people to have their own discoveries about their professional and personal lives -- insights that can help them be more productive and healthy.

My presentations are not just “sit and git.” There's lots of participation. I like to infuse a lot of humor in my work. During my presentations, I’m able to be in the moment and improvise with whatever is going on in the room. But, I do not shy away from meaningful moments or even tears. Laughter makes the serious moments sweeter...

Anyone interesting in supporting youth and families is welcome to attend the luncheon, celebrate our People of the Year, and be enriched by the speaker. Contact Kristin Yalacki of Juvenile Court/Youth Service Bureau ( [kyalacki@ioniacounty.org](mailto:kyalacki@ioniacounty.org) ) or Dana Beech of the ICISD ( [dbeeche@ioniaisd.org](mailto:dbeeche@ioniaisd.org) ) for more information or to RSVP to the luncheon.

## Do you know what the Ionia County Health Department has available for our community?

### Personal Health

- Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)
- Tuberculin Skin Tests (TB)
- Immunizations & Travel Immunizations
- Women Infants and Children (WIC)
- Lead Screening
- Vision and Hearing Screening
- Maternal & Infant Support Services
- Healthy Kids & MiChild



### Environmental Health

- Food Service Programs
- On-Site Sewage Disposal
- On-Site Water Supply
- Nuisance Abatement (Complaints)
- Loan Evaluations
- Radon
- West Nile



### Family Planning

- Confidential family planning counseling
- Pregnancy testing and exams
- HIV/AIDS Counseling & Testing

### Community Health

- Health Education, Health Plan, and Medical Examiner Services
- Provides accurate health information and preventative measures
- Assist citizens to make wise health decision

These services provide protection from the everyday and the exceptional health threats; provide healthy solutions for our community; and educate you and your neighbors about good health. Your Ionia County Health Department plays a vital role in developing new policies and standards that address existing and emerging challenges to your community's health while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep you safe. We are constantly working, through research and rigorous staff training, to maintain our unique expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting edge health programs.

Please visit our web site [www.ioniacounty.org/health-department](http://www.ioniacounty.org/health-department), for more information, or call at 616-527-5341.

# **Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative Treatment Program**



Ionia County Health Department  
175 E. Adams St., Ionia, MI 48846

**(616) 527-5341**

**(616) 902-5608 or (616) 902-3919** *(after hours on call)*

[www.ioniacounty.org/Health/home.asp](http://www.ioniacounty.org/Health/home.asp)

**Are you:**

**On Medicaid?**

**Uninsured?**

**Under-Insured?**

**Need of referral?**

## **Our treatment program offers:**

Initial screenings, assessments, treatment, follow-up services, referrals

Substance abuse treatment

Agencies that assist clients in maintaining sobriety

Outpatient, intensive outpatient, individual and group therapy

Case management

Drug testing

Community outreach

Women and family specialty services

## **Our Clinicians**

### **Ionia County Health Department**

Deb Thalison MA, BA, CCS-M, CCJP, CPC-M

Community Health Supervisor

Substance Abuse Director

### **Stacy Moore BS, CPS-M**

Case Manager

Health Educator

### **McMathis Counseling Services**

Darlene-McMathis-West MA, LLPC, LBSW, CFC

1-(989)-224-5065

### **Northpoint Counseling**

Dennis Mitin, LBSW, CAC-1

1-(616)-523-6677

### **Two Rivers Counseling and Consulting, PC**

Margery Briggs, LMSW, ACSW, CAC-1

1-(517)-647-4747

## New faces

**Jenna Perry** is the new Parent Liaison for the Great Start Collaborative at the Ionia County ISD. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University.

**Diane Gross** hired in at the ICHD in December 2008. She is an Outreach Worker for the Ionia County Health Dept. Diane is working as the receptionist as well as working with the Healthy Kids, MiChild and the Ionia County Health Plan programs.

**Jennifer Roseberry** is a new Children's Protective Services specialist at Ionia County Department of Human Services. She formerly worked with the Postal Service.

**Mark Jewell** returns to Ionia County DHS as the new CPS supervisor. He formerly worked at Kent County DHS as a CPS specialist and later as a foster care specialist. Previous to that he worked at Ionia County DHS.

**Tyler Armstrong** is a new foster care worker at Ionia County DHS. Tyler is new to human services.

**Laurie Noall** is a new foster care worker at Ionia County DHS. Laurie previously worked with Ionia County CHM.

**Dawn Ritter**, LMSW is the new Foster Care/Ongoing CPS supervisor at Ionia County DHS. Dawn has worked for DHS for 14 years, most recently at the Central Office in Lansing.



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## Funding for early childhood programs is restored

These have been very difficult times economically for businesses, agencies, families, individuals and young children. Earlier in the year, the governor submitted a budget that eliminated funding for the ages 0-3 Secondary Prevention program and Great Parents Great Start program.

Both of these programs serve families with children less than five years of age and collectively, they have impacted about 130 families this year. The 0-3 Secondary Prevention Program - called Begin with Babies program locally - provides intensive home visiting services and group meetings to eligible families (about 25 percent of participants are teen parents with limited supports). The GPGS program targets parents primarily by educating them via three community playgroups and supports them in getting their child ready for school. This is a unique program for the county as it is universally accessible to all families and **it is free**.

Many parents from both of these programs wrote letters to our legislators or spoke with them in person in support of these programs. We are very thankful for their efforts. If you have any questions about either of these programs you can contact Cheryl Granzo, director of Early Childhood Programs, at the Ionia ISD (616) 522-1410.

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## Did you read this edition of Inter\*Actions?

Take the quiz below, email the correct answers to [InteractionsNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:InteractionsNewsletter@gmail.com) by May 8th and get entered in the drawing to win a prize from an Ionia County business! Drawing of winners will take place on May 14th. All winners will be notified via email on May 15th.

### True or False?

1. Funding for early childhood programs has been restored.
2. The Census Bureau would like everyone to put their address on their house.
3. The annual ICAN luncheon is on April 23, 2009.
4. Free fluoride treatment is available to kids.
5. The Ionia County Health Department offers family planning among many other helpful programs.

*Thanks for playing!!!*