

## Anne E. Dyson Child Advocacy Award 2006 Recipients

**Project Leader Name:** Andrea Hunter, MD and Shannon Wires, MD

**Project Title:** Pediatric Refugee and Immigrant Health Clinic

The Pediatric Refugee and Immigrant Health Clinic frequently encounters families that struggle with multiple barriers to health care as a result of their immigration or refugee status including: poverty, cultural and language barriers, fear of apprehension by immigration authorities, as well as simple lack of documentation for health care financial coverage. Interest in partnering with the Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO) of North Hamilton came from a desire to overcome some of these barriers and work specifically with immigrant and refugee children. SISO is a “community based organization that provides essential services and programs to facilitate and support early settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees in Hamilton”. Dr Hunter and others have designed and implemented a pediatric clinic in partnership with SISO to provide comprehensive initial health assessments for children newly arrived to Canada, and to assist in the integration of these children and their families into the Canadian health care system. The SISO pediatric clinic has provided an opportunity for residents to improve the services for a marginalized population within our community, gain knowledge in tropical medicine and enact our important role as health advocates.

**Project Leader Name:** Jenni Linebarger, MD and Kristi Cowell, MD

**Project Title:** Project TEACHER (Trial of an After-school Curriculum for a Healthier Environment in Rochester)

The primary objective of Project TEACHER is to decrease teacher reports of disruptive classroom behavior, decrease visits to the principal's office for problem behaviors, and improve children's grades and attendance. In the fall of 2004, four residents recognized their common interest in effective school-associated interventions aimed at reducing aggressive and disruptive behaviors in children. That same fall, they started researching existing programs to address their primary objective. The Coping Power Program (created by Dr. John Lochmann) met their criteria and was selected for implementation. The residents partnered with the local YMCA and Pinnacle School No. 35, applied for grant funding, screened for behavior problems in 3rd through 5th grade students at the school, and hired staff during the spring/summer of 2005. The Coping Power Program was implemented in October 2005 for 16 high-risk students and successfully finished its pilot year in June 2006.

**Project Leader Name:** Gary Maslow, MD

**Project Title:** The Adolescent Leadership Council of Hasbro Children's Hospital

Gary Maslow, MD, started TALC in September of 2005 following an AAP CATCH Grant. The Adolescent Leadership Council of Hasbro Children's Hospital (TALC) was created to provide adolescents with chronic illness a social support network and a voice to improve the care of children with chronic illness in the state of Rhode Island. TALC is a group of 10 teenage patients with chronic illnesses and 10 Brown University student mentors also with chronic illnesses that meets on a monthly basis. The teens and Brown University student mentors have a diversity of conditions including Crohn's Disease, Cancer, Diabetes Mellitus, SLE, Ehlers-Danlos, and Migraines. The group provides social support and mentoring for teens with chronic illness while also providing a forum for these adolescents to become leaders who actively work to improve the experience of other children treated at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Beyond attending monthly meetings, participants in TALC produced a newsletter discussing various aspects of chronic illness which has been distributed throughout the community, presented at Pediatric Grand Rounds, and have done outreach to local schools in an effort to educate teachers and other students about the school issues surrounding chronic illness.