

The **AFSZ** is a project of
Real World Foundation

Asthma Free School Zone Newsletter

Asthma Prevention, Environmental Protection & Community Empowerment in a Neighborhood Setting

AFSZ Presentations

Asthma in the Bronx

“Environmental Health and its Relationship to Asthma”
Petra Vallila-Buchman

South Bronx Asthma Partnership (SOBRAP)
Bronx, NY.
December 2, 2004

NYC Sierra Club
“Environmental Asthma”
Rebecca Kalin
NYC, NY
January 24, 2005

AFSZ in the News

Margarita Talks
Manhattan Neighborhood Network Cable TV Channel 34
12/14/04, 1/11/05

At Hunter
Alumni Profile Fall 2004
“Alum Cleans Up the Air—One School at a Time”

New South Bronx Asthma Partnership

As part of the newly-formed South Bronx Asthma Partnership (SOBRAP), the Asthma Free School Zone, Bronx Lebanon Hospital and HealthPlus are partners in a three-school asthma pilot project. The schools, PS 114, PS 218 and PS 88, are all located in the Highbridge section where the childhood asthma rate is just behind that of East Harlem. The schools were selected by Alma Idehen, DOE Health Director for Region 1, for their location, high asthma rates and cooperative school administrations.



The *Breathing Better in the Bronx* intervention. includes the designation of no-idling zones with AFSZ signage, classroom asthma education, faculty and staff training, provision of asthma management equipment, community outreach and education and tracking of asthma-related absenteeism as a way of assessing program effectiveness. AFSZ partner, Queens College Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, is testing indoor air quality at PS 114.

AFSZ and Youth Leadership Program

Under a grant from the Citizens for NYC *Young Citizens Center* program, students from The Heritage School in East Harlem will be participating in a special leadership program with the AFSZ. The 11th and 12th grade students will learn about environmental health, “adopt” a school zone, conduct EH research and, working with Action Racket Theatre, develop a drama to perform at the Earth Day Festival in Central Park, on MNN cable TV, and in selected schools. The 3-month program encourages activism, provides service learning, leadership training and internships at community based organizations.

AFSZ Wins US DOT Grant

The US Department of Transportation has awarded Real World Foundation/AFSZ a Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for support of core program activities for three years, beginning in 2006. In partnership with the NYC DOT, the AFSZ program will continue its efforts to improve air quality by promoting idle-free school zones and raising public awareness about environmental health issues.

AFSZ Begins Intern Program at Hunter

Beginning January 2005, Hunter College graduate students in the Urban Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences program will be interning with the AFSZ, developing protocols and instructional materials related to school environmental health and safety. The AFSZ/Hunter field office will be located at the School of Health Sciences on East 25th Street and First Avenue in Room 714. (Telephone: 212-481-5073)

Che Guevara... had asthma

In December 2004, the AFSZ received nearly \$4000 in private contributions. Individuals who gave \$100 or more will be receiving an original AFSZ *Famous Asthmatics* t-shirt. (Now, how about you?)

