

Mothers for Clean Air Annual Report

June 2003 – May 2004



Summary

Collaboration was again the key that allowed Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA) to be successful in achieving our mission, in spite of lean funding and limited resources. In addition to strengthening existing partnerships (Houston-Galveston Citizen Air Monitoring Project, UTMB NIEHS Center/Sealy Center Theatre Outreach and Education) we established two new partnerships (Museum of Health and Medical Science, Kids Environmental Education Project) that amplified our education and outreach efforts. We are developing two more partnerships (Houston Health Department, Global Alliance) that will increase our resources even further.

In addition to collaborative projects, MfCA maintains a full schedule of education and outreach projects. In the past year we hosted our sixth annual tour of the Houston Ship Channel on the M.V. Sam Houston and our third tour of the Parish Power Plant. MfCA co-hosted a series of 5 videos on urban sprawl with Sierra Club and the Citizens' Environmental Coalition. We set up our display and educated the community at 13 local fairs and festivals and conducted hands-on children's activities at 6 locations. We also presented four special awards at the Science Engineering Fair of Houston and hosted an intern from Rice University. We were able to accomplish these activities only with the help of 32 volunteers who contributed more than 200 hours of their time.

MfCA published three issues of our newsletter, Clearing the Air, mailed them to 1000 members and stakeholders, and acquired two new outlets for distribution. We e-mailed 50 notices of upcoming events and possible actions to 400 members. Our executive director gave 9 presentations on Houston's air quality including one to 250 Houston Independent School District nurses. MfCA attempted to influence public policy by submitting written comments to federal, state, and local agencies concerning air quality standards, enforcement, upset emissions, regional transportation, and a local Superfund site.

Much action took place this year in our chapter organizations. The Spring Branch/Memorial Chapter raised \$5000 to commission a study of the increase in air pollution expected from the expansion of the Katy Freeway. MfCA held its first press conference to announce the results of the study and the Chapter arranged 12 presentations of the study to policy makers, which promoted the organization as well as the study results.

The Fifth Ward Chapter's technical consultant advised the community that the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed clean-up of the Many Diversified Interests Superfund site was inadequate for the community's intended re-use. The Fifth Ward Chapter's comments are making an impact on EPA's final decision as to how the site will be cleaned up.

MfCA conducted a third leadership development workshop to build capacity in the remaining three chapters. MfCA was selected for one of 30 EPA Community Problem Solving grants that will promote communication with our Southeast Houston Chapter and government agencies, elected officials and industry.

Despite a slight decrease in contributions, more people donated this year with 74 individuals contributing more than \$4500. During the year we prepared proposals and applied for funding to seven foundations, corporations and government agencies for operating costs and special projects.

Although membership on our Board of Directors has been changing, we have established our first Advisory Board made up of 13 members from a variety of professions. We are excited about the leadership potential of this initial group of advisors and how they can contribute toward advancing Mothers for Clean Air towards its mission.