A Message from Our Executive Director

Our home is our refuge from the outside world, is it not? During allergy season, you know to keep your windows closed to keep the pollen from coming inside. Also, you should remove your clothes and shower immediately upon entering the home if you have been exposed to heavy pollen. This can help remove the allergy triggers causing your problems.

We all know that trees, weeds and grass can be challenging for people with allergies, but did you know what’s inside your home may be contributing to your allergy symptoms, too? There is movement nationwide to conduct healthy home assessments to determine if indoor triggers (such as mold, pets and smoke) are exacerbating symptoms for asthma and allergy sufferers. Many families throughout Missouri will soon receive home assessments if their child is on Medicaid and has severe asthma/allergies. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter championed this legislation last year and this service will be implemented July of this year.

If you or someone you know would like a healthy home assessment, please let us know! This service is not covered by health insurance (yet), but the cost is within the same range as having your carpets cleaned. The comprehensive assessment will test indoor air quality and measure other factors to determine if your home is a healthy place. In addition, our partner, Stanley Steemer, can also conduct an “allergy friendly” cleaning of upholstery and carpets. If you call Stanley Steemer, and you reference AAFA-STL, you will receive a discount and we receive a donation! Our hope is that each of you will enjoy the spring weather without enduring allergic symptoms.

Thanks for reading, and a big thank you to our many donors for your continued generosity and support throughout the year!

Joy B. Krieger, MA, RN
Executive Director
St. Louis Ranks 25th

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America recently released their annual Spring Allergy Capitals report, which ranks the top 100 most challenging U.S. cities to live in with seasonal allergies. St. Louis has improved five spots - from 20 to 25! Even with this jump, the city continues to rank worse than average with regards to recorded pollen levels and over-the-counter and Rx allergy medications per capita. The #1 most challenging city for those with spring allergies this year? Jackson, MS. For further information on these metrics and to see the report in its entirety, please visit www.AllergyCapitals.com.

Your Opinion Matters!

Do you or someone you know have food allergies? We want your input! AAFA-STL is undergoing a community needs assessment to help direct what services and programs we provide the food allergy community.

Please take this brief, five-minute survey no later than May 5, 2015. You can be entered to receive a $100 gift certificate to Zydeco Blues** restaurant and bar for your participation. (**Please note, this restaurant may or may not accommodate your food allergy needs. Always inform restaurant staff about your allergies and restrictions upfront. Ask questions and remain vigilant).

www.surveymonkey.com/r/STLfoodallergies

AAFA-STL Announces New Program Name & Logos

AAFA-STL is pleased to unveil a program name change and brand new program logos. Formerly known as Project Concern, Bridging Resources to Encourage Asthma Treatment and Health, or BREATH, is AAFA-STL’s comprehensive asthma and allergy management program for eligible uninsured or underinsured children in our service area. Seeking a name that would better encapsulate all that this flagship program provides, the Board of Directors voted late last year to change Project Concern’s name to BREATH.

RESCUE is our school nurse asthma equipment program that provides school nurses with durable medical equipment to be used during asthma emergencies in the school setting. Efforts to trademark both logos are underway! Thank you to our graphic designers, John Marksbury and Melissa Irvin, for your expertise!
Want to lend a hand? AAFA-STL has volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including assisting with administrative tasks, special events, community programs and more. For further details, please contact Andrea Lebb, 314-645-2422 or alebb@aafastl.org.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
* Sat., July 18: Redbird Rookies Fair
  (assistance needed w/ AAFA-STL table & asthma screenings)
* Mon., July 20: 27th Annual AAFA-STL Golf Classic
  (pre-event and day-of event assistance needed)
for life without limits™

Save The Date!
27TH ANNUAL AAFA-STL GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, July 20, 2015
Persimmon Woods Golf Club
Weldon Spring, MO
12:30 p.m. - Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m. - Caddyshack & Cocktails Reception
(Open Bar - 5:00 p.m.)

Benefiting the life-saving programs that the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, St. Louis Chapter provides to the St. Louis community and beyond.

More info: aafastl.org/golf or 314.645.2422