

- Maintenance of a **nebulizer loaner program** in collaboration with Medical Arts Pharmacy. Families may borrow nebulizers for a limited period of time at no charge; they are required to return them in good condition.
- Sponsorship of an annual “**Asthma Expo**” in collaboration with the Alliance for Health, the Cleveland County Health Department, the NC Cooperative Extension Service, Cleveland Regional Medical Center and other vendors. The 2003 event featured three speakers and offered participants a chance to review products and obtain educational information about asthma.
- **Speakers Bureau** available to civic organizations, PTOs, and faith communities to raise the awareness of asthma in Cleveland County.
- Maintenance of a **resource library** of print and video materials. Materials are available in English and Spanish and appropriate for various age groups. Materials are housed at the Cleveland County Health Department

The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon. Meetings are held in the second floor conference room at the Cleveland County Health Department and usually last an hour.

Members work together to develop an annual work plan. This plan determines the priorities for the year and focuses the work of committees and small groups in developing and implementing new activities and services.

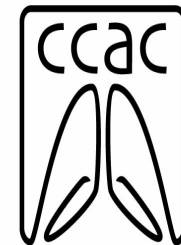
Membership is open to any individuals interested in asthma or affected by asthma. There is no charge for membership.

To schedule a speaker or presentation about asthma, call 704/484-5195 and a Coalition member will return your call.



Cleveland County Asthma Coalition
 315 East Grover Street
 Shelby, North Carolina 28150
 Telephone: 704/484-5195
 FAX: 704/484-5114

CLEVELAND COUNTY ASTHMA COALITION



Improving
 Health
 One Breath
 At a Time

Cleveland County Asthma Coalition

The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition was founded in the spring of 2002 through a grant from the North Carolina Department of Human Services, Division of Public Health to the Cleveland County Health Department.

The initial goals of the Coalition were:

1. Expand opportunities for parents, family members and diagnosed asthma patients to become more informed about asthma.
2. Expand opportunities for Health Care Providers to enhance their understanding and management of asthma.
3. Develop and implement a community asthma awareness campaign in Cleveland County.
4. Establish a permanent Asthma Coalition.

Coalition Activities

The initial focus of the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition was childhood asthma. The Coalition has now expanded its focus to include activities and services to anyone diagnosed with asthma, their family members and the community at large.

Some of these activities include:

- Publication of a **resource brochure** listing websites of organizations of interest to individuals diagnosed with asthma and their families
- Establishing and maintaining an **Asthma Resource Telephone Line** available 24 hours a day. Technology for the line is provided by the Cleveland County Health Department; a voice mail system is used to track and record the calls. A volunteer from the Asthma Coalition responds in a timely manner to calls placed to the referral line. The telephone number for this service is:

704/484-5195
- Establishing **Basic Asthma Education Classes** offered at the Dover Foundation Family YMCA to individuals diagnosed with asthma, their family members, healthcare providers and interested community members. Taught by healthcare profes-

sionals—physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and respiratory therapists—the class offers information on the physiology of the disease, treatment options, medications, triggers, emergency situations and maintenance of the disease. Activities appropriate to various age groups are included in the class as are hands-on demonstrations with peak flow meters and spacers. Classes are in English and Spanish.

- **Continuing education** for healthcare providers, including physicians, nurses, medical office staff, school health center personnel, teachers and custodians on the evolution of the disease and treatment options. Teachers, administrators, and custodial staff from all three school systems received special training in the American Lung Association's programs, "Tools for Schools" and "Open Airways".