



# Children's Environmental Health Network

## Annual Report 2004

110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 505 • Washington, DC 20002 • 202-543-4033 • www.cehn.org

"Promoting a healthy environment for children since 1992"

### From the Executive Director



The Network witnessed a year of positive growth and development in 2004. Within the organization, three new members were added to the Board, the Network's Strategic Plan was revisited for future direction, and great progress was made among program goals and deliverables.

A Conference on Children's Environmental Health Research Ethics was held in April 2004, funded by the Centers for Disease Control. The Beldon Fund continued to support outreach and education efforts to health professionals serving high-risk communities, and the Goldman Fund continued their support of The Network's advocacy and policy campaign. EPA Region III also supported the Summer Environmental Development Program (SEDP) for the third consecutive summer.

In California Office we have maintained a high level of productivity. The San Francisco Foundation continued to support the

Healthy Environments in Childcare and Pre-Schools Project, which has included outreach and education of stakeholder populations. The California Wellness Foundation has supported The Network's role in the Environmental Health Legislative Working Group (EHLWG) and related California advocacy activities along with the creation of the California Directory and resource Guide for Children's Environmental Health.

We at the Network look forward to building from our 2004 success and continuing the important work in the protection of children and their health into 2005 and beyond!

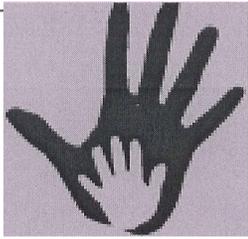
### Ethics in Children's Environmental Health Research

To bring diverse expertise together to construct the strongest foundation for clear, practical, generally accepted guidelines, the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) convened a two day working meeting on "Ethical Issues in Children's Environmental Health: A Symposium on Key Research and Clinical Questions" on March 5th - 6th 2004. The conference, funded by the Centers for Disease Control, produced four papers on the three topic areas: research guidelines; guidelines on interactions with and roles of industry; and guidelines for balancing privacy and public health concerns. The Network is now proposing to work with its extensive network of researchers, clinicians, professional associations, and NGOs to promote

the use and continued refinement of these guidelines. Since the meeting, the lectures and the reports have been collected and are currently being edited into scientific papers. These papers have already been accepted as a mini-monograph and will be submitted for publication in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.



<b><u>In this Report</u></b>
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## Student Environmental Development Program

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For CEHN, summer is always a season to look forward to, because it means the beginning of another great year of the Student Environmental Development Program (SEDP). As a part of our mission to promote environmental health education, since 2002 CEHN has been the contracting organization for the Region III, EPA-funded SEDP, a community-based summer environmental education and outreach program for rising eighth grade public school students. The DC SEDP provides students with an environmental education and experiential learning program to achieve a better understanding of their relationship to the natural and social environments.

### Board of Directors

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Peggy Shepard

Ramona Trovato

The curriculum includes: air and water quality, soil quality, lead, asthma, radon, and nutrition. It emphasizes diversity, and the interactions among culture, class, and gender in regards to environmental issues. The program included dozens of guest speakers, from organizations as diverse as the Sierra Club and the EPA. Students learned firsthand about the environment: canoeing on the Anacostia River, touring the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Green Building, and gardening at Urban Oasis in Southeast DC.

The program culminated with student presentations on environmental topics. The students created professional-level environmental presentations and presented them to dozens of government officials at the National.

### Policy Analysis

The Network, thanks to the generous resources of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, was deeply engaged in policy analysis and advocacy in a wide array of issues related to children's environmental health.

Under this project, the Network analyzed proposed legislation; advocated on key issues such as mercury policy, research on children's environmental health, and pesticide human testing and issued policy statements and



Training Conservation Center in Shepardstown, West Virginia SEDP's ultimate goals are that students will use their knowledge to teach others, especially peers, about the environmental issues that affect their communities and that they will become involved in efforts to reduce environmental hazards. With each graduating class, SEDP empower new group of environmental stewards and community leaders.

docket comments on issues that will have a broad impact on children's health (such as how cost benefit analyses value the life of children).

The Network sponsored a press event at the National Press Club on the Bush Administration's "Clear Skies" proposal; generated statements on mercury health risks; and assisted in gathering organizational support for two coalition letters regarding funding for the National Children's Study.

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## Policy Analysis(Continued)

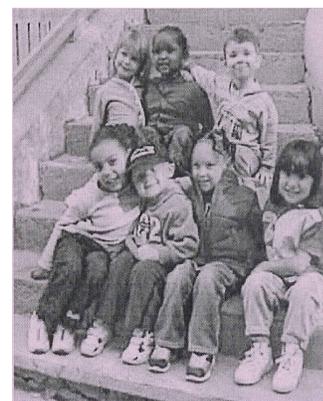
In April 2004, again thanks to the support of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Network released its third report titled Children's Environmental Health: Administration Report Card. Building on our past reports, this one provided a more thorough analysis and, for the first time, included "grading" of the federal government's decisions, or lack of decisions, in a number of areas that are critical to the health of children in the environment.

To produce the Administration Report Card required the development of new methodology as well as the involvement of expert reviewers and stakeholder groups. As part of the Network's efforts to broaden the constituency base for children's environmental health, environmental health experts from national organizations

served as peer reviewers and many experts in the field contributed. The report concluded that the Federal Government is failing to protect the health of our children.

A press conference held on April 5, 2004 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC included representatives from various advocacy, health, public health, government, and environmental organizations.

The Report Card, but also in delivered a unique evaluation method that proved to be very effective in translating complex scientific concepts in children's environmental health into a user friendly format



## Education and Outreach

Through funding from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), CEHN developed workshops to train leaders on use of the NLM database and thematically related materials for children's environmental health. The workshops emphasized an overview of available resources, how to use the database, how to apply information from the database to make informed risk decisions, and how to communicate about such risks, including evaluating whether or not a risk is "significant." Within the grant period 8 workshops were held reaching over 350 leaders.

Highlights of trainings performed in 2004 included environmental justice leaders,

graduate students at Howard University, the 2004 Northeast Environmental Conference, and the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment (CASE).

The Beldon Fund also supported education and outreach efforts in 2004 through the project "Augmenting Minority Health Professional Participation in Children's Environmental Health Concerns and Policy." The Network's accomplishments included the creation of the Environmental Health Legislative Working Group in California.

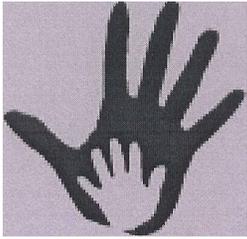
### Staff

Nsedu Obot  
Witherspoon, M.P.H  
*Executive Director*

Renee L. Robin, J.D.  
CA  
*Office Director*

### Consultants

Carol Stroebel  
*Health Policy  
Specialist*



# Annual Report

## California Activities

In 2004, The Network's California Office remained quite busy! Under the Healthy Environments in Childcare and Pre-Schools Project outreach and meetings with key childcare organizations, staff members, and participants were conducted in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Preliminary training materials were created and research was conducted around safe alternative resources for providers.

For the last two years CEH has been part of a coalition of state, regional, and local environmental and health

affected groups, along with legislative staff to develop a statewide policy agenda for children's environmental health in California. In 2004 CEHN facilitated the Environmental Health Legislative Working Group (EHLWG) and created and moderated the EHLWG listserv.

In 2004, further work was accomplished on the California Resource Guide for children's environmental health. Once completed, the Guide will increase networking opportunity, contacts and will become incorporated as a helpful source of information in California.

**CEHN**

PHONE  
202-543-4033

FAX  
202-543-8797

E-MAIL  
cehn@cehn.org

www.cehn.org

### Web Communications- Join our Listservs!

The Network maintains two listservs. The CEHN Science list discusses current research and science issues within the field of children's environmental health. The CEHN Community List moderates discussion about policy and community issues. children's environmental health. To subscribe to please send a blank message to either or both of the following addresses:

cehnscience-on@cehn.org  
cehncommunity-on@cehn.org

### *About the CEHN*

The Children's Environmental Health Network is a 501(C)3 national organization with the goal of protecting the fetus and child from environmental health hazards and promoting a healthy environment.

CEHN was established in 1989 as the "Kids and Environment Project" funded by the California Department of Health Services. CEHN works through policy, education, and research efforts.

CEHN  
110 MARYLAND AVE., NE  
WASHINGTON. DC 20002