



NYC-BASED INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS INC. PARTNERS WITH HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE ASTHMA INITIATIVE (HCZAI) TO ASSIST CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

Family business donates air purifiers; hospital selects recipients

NEW YORK (May 4, 2004) – When the Harlem Children's Zone Asthma Initiative reported that one in four children in central Harlem suffer from asthma, it struck home for Maria Vizzi, president of Indoor Environmental Solutions Inc. (IES).

Vizzi's nephew, Philip, 11, who lives in New Jersey, also has asthma. Coincidentally, Vizzi's company helps business and residential property owners improve indoor air quality. IES operates a network of professionals who inspect, clean and sanitize air ventilation ducts and exhaust systems.

"I gave my sister one of our air purifiers to put in my nephew's room and it helped him breathe much better," said Vizzi. "So why not get these purifiers out where more kids will benefit from them?" she added.

Encouraged by her nephew's experience, Vizzi contacted the HCZAI after reading about the Initiative throughout the media. Upon meeting with Kellye Jackson-Roney, Harlem Hospital Center's director of development, IES agreed to donate one mobile air purifier per month to the hospital. Harlem Hospital selects the recipient child. With each new IES corporate customer, the company will increase its support by donating a corresponding number of air purifiers to the hospital in that customer's name. Created as a matching program, the hospital provides the participating corporate customer with the first name and age of the child they sponsor and information on how the equipment helps the child.

IES said its April donation to the hospital was made possible by the Astor Terrace Condominium Association (93rd St. and Second Ave.).

"The asthma rate in Harlem is approximately 28%, which is significantly higher than the National estimates that range from 5 – 10%" said Kellye Jackson-Roney. "This Harlem statistic is probably similar to those of other inner city neighborhoods. For a small business to step up like this is phenomenal... It just shows that you don't have to be a Fortune 500 company to make a difference."

Children with asthma are acutely sensitive to weather changes, and particles or contaminants in the environment, including the air we breathe, which restrict their lungs from functioning properly.

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More information on asthma may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>. The federal government's website also contains a checklist of things that can trigger asthma attacks in the home environment.

For residential high-rise apartment buildings, cleaning the kitchen, bathroom and buildings hallway air ducts are the first step to improving the indoor air quality. In addition to residential air purifiers, commercial and industrial strength purifiers for hospitals and assisted living facilities are also available from IES. Businesses or individuals interested in IES services and/or donating an air purifier may contact IES toll-free at **1-866-56-CLEAN**.

ABOUT IES

Maria Vizzi and her husband, Giuseppe, who have extensive experience in air ventilation cleaning, launched IES in 2000. The family-owned business services residential and commercial properties throughout the New York metro and tri-state area. IES works with property owners and property/facilities managers to address tenant concerns about indoor air quality and building hygiene.

About HCZAI

To address the asthma crisis in the Harlem Children's Zone Project (a 24 block community building initiative of the Harlem Children's Zone), HCZ and the Department of Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital Center (HHC) launched the HCZ Asthma Initiative (HCZAI) in partnership with the Harlem Health Promotion Center at Columbia University. HCZAI's primary goal is to reduce asthma morbidity through improved health care utilization for children with asthma aged 0-12 living in the HCZ Project.

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