

---

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2015

**For additional information contact:**

**Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or [Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov)**

**Community Screening Scheduled for Documentary  
*Raising of America***

**GRAND RAPIDS** – We all want what is best for our children. We live in the richest country in the world. So why does child well-being in the U.S. rank 26 out of 29 rich countries? Why do we as a country allow our most vulnerable children to fall so much further behind?

The Kent County Health Department is teaming up with Strong Beginnings, First Steps, Great Start Collaborative, Family Futures, Healthy Kent, K-Connect, Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative, MomsBloom, and I Believe, I Become/Baby Scholars, in an effort to educate the public about the challenges of raising children in our diverse community. We are planning two screenings of "**Raising of America**," a documentary that explores how a strong start for all our kids leads not only to better individual learning, earning, and mental and physical health, but also to a healthier, safer, better educated, more prosperous, and more equitable America.

**Raising of America** is an hour-long episode that *"interweaves the latest discoveries from neuroscience with the stories of families and communities doing all they can to provide the nurturing environments all babies and young children need to thrive."* The documentary examines how social conditions affect childhood development.

"Issues of poverty, race, education, environment, safety and employment all have an impact on childhood development," said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "We need to create policies across all sectors - housing, labor, transportation, health, early childhood, etc. - in order to reduce inequities and give all children a level playing field. Finding successes today can improve the quality of life for our children and future generations."

Join us for the Grand Rapids/Kent County Screening:

***Raising of America* Screening and Community Conversation**

Thursday, April 16, 2015

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

and

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Celebration! Cinema South

1506 Eastport Dr. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Register for the screening and conversation by [clicking here](http://www.raisingofamerica.org). Learn more about the documentary series [www.raisingofamerica.org](http://www.raisingofamerica.org).

###

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503