
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Special Screening of Powerful Documentary Planned
KCHD and Community Partners Hope to “Continue the Conversation”**

GRAND RAPIDS – Why are so many children in America faring so poorly? What are the consequences for the nation’s future? How might we, as a nation, do better?

“The Raising of America” is a five-part program that focuses on education and early childhood development by exploring these questions. The series investigates through different lenses: What it is like to be a parent today? What policies and structures help or hinder the raising of healthy, happy and compassionate children? The “Signature Hour” covered all of these issues. The next four episodes dive into each for a closer look.

In April KCHD and partners premiered the one hour signature and is now hosting screenings of all four of the thirty minute episodes. The screenings begin October 23rd with the program *“Once Upon a Time”* to be shown at GRPS University at 1400 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids at 10:00AM.

“Just 20 years ago our education system was the envy of the planet. Today, high school graduation rates are below 20 other countries and at least 30 others do a better job of providing access to child care,” says Teresa Branson, Deputy Health Officer at the Kent County Health Department. “We want these screenings to spawn, strengthen and continue the conversation about how we can do better.”

Admission for the screenings is free, but registration is required, Registration information and series schedule can be found by clicking [here](#), or visiting www.familyfutures.net/community/raising-of-america/.

“Raising of America illuminates and brings into focus why our early childhood partners in Kent County are working to improve the system of care for young children and their families” says Judy Freeman, Director of Great Start Collaborative of Kent County (retired). “It demonstrates why early childhood services are a wise investment and crucial for the growth of America.”

The “Raising of America” screenings are sponsored by *I Believe, I Become/Baby Scholars, The Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative, Family Futures, Great Start Collaborative of Kent County, Healthy Kent, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), and Strong Beginnings.*

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 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.

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