



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2014

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Healthcare Union Leads the Fight Against Lead

NEWARK – Today, JNESO District Council 1 Executive Director Douglas Placa joined Newark’s Partnership for Lead Safe Children and Healthy Homes, elected officials, and other community leaders in the City of Newark for the Healthy Homes Lead Awareness Walk, an event that brings attention to the life-altering impact that lead poisoning can have on children. The walk was chaired by JNESO Community Organizer Theresa Calhoun, and began on the steps of Newark City Hall.

“Today’s march serves as a reminder that the fight against lead poisoning in the City of Newark is not over,” Placa said. “In fact the battle is still very much underway, and we need to continue to devote resources for eradicating this devastating but preventable illness from our environment.”

The walk continued from Newark City Hall to Lincoln Park, where more than one hundred children between the ages of three and five walked with elected and community leaders.

“These children are the ages in which lead poisoning has its greatest impact,” said Calhoun. “Exposure to lead in the early stages of life can lead to learning disabilities and permanent brain damage, and these children serve as a reminder of the young lives that are at stake.”

JNESO is a healthcare union representing workers at Newark’s Health and Community Wellness Department, who work with residents and other members of the community to inform families about the dangers of lead.

“Every day our members are on the frontlines of educating the community and testing children for lead exposure,” Placa said. “They’ve made incredible progress in getting children and families out of harm’s way. While we recognize their great work, we do so knowing that we still have a long way to go.”

Several speakers reminded participants of the critical importance of having their children tested for lead poisoning, a service provided daily by JNESO nurses at Newark's Health and Community Wellness Department.

To learn more, visit www.JNESO.org.