



NEWS

City of St. Louis Department of Health



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE UNITED STATES DEBUT AT ST. LOUIS' HARBOR LIGHT SHELTER

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Everyone says they have never seen anything like it. Some shelter clients called them flying saucers. Others scratch their head as they stare at the luminous blue light beaming from the center of the spinning black spheres. They are looking at the **Sanitizing Air Mixer or SAM**, a new bacteria killing ultra-violet light. Charley Dunn, Chairman of the Lumalier Memphis, Tennessee invented and designed this system.



These lights are part of a project that the City of St. Louis Health Department's TB Control Program initiated in response to a stubborn Tuberculosis outbreak. That outbreak caused 19 TB cases and 2 deaths during the past three years at St. Louis' largest shelter. Captains Timothy and Beverly Best, Administrators of the Salvation Army Harbor Light Shelter, knew they had a problem. They have been working closely with local, state and federal health agencies to halt this TB outbreak.

Since last spring, the City's TB Control Program has intensified its effort by coordinating the \$50,000 multi-agency collaborative project. This has included contracting with Bio-Tech X-Ray Co., in Clayton, to conduct on-site mobile x-ray screening during evening hours in order to evaluate as many clients as possible. Advisors and engineering scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Missouri Division of Health and Senior Services, the National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Lenzy Hayes Facility Management Company and the American Lung Association of Missouri worked to evaluate and upgrade the shelter's entire 23-unit air handler system. The TB Control Program also partnered with Grace Hill Agency staff to skin test all clients and staff for Tuberculosis. **The effort has paid off. No TB cases have been identified at Harbor Light Shelter since last August.**

On Monday, May 10, 2004, Harbor Light and the City TB Control Program hosted a celebration at the Salvation Army Shelter to thank project participants and to formally unveil Mr. Dunn's new Silent Air Mover ultra-violet light. The event will begin at **9:30 a.m. at Harbor Light, located at 3010 Washington**. Mr. Dunn and his Lumalier Co. have worked on numerous Tuberculosis control and prevention projects around the United States. He has also teamed with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to install ultra-violet lights at projects in Brazil, and Latvia.

For details on this event or information on the St. Louis City TB Control Program contact Ted Misselbeck, CDC Public Health Advisor at 612-5284 or 612-5286.