

Door to Door in the Heartland, Preaching Healthy Living

September 17, 2012

The New York Times:

Like a missionary, Michael Bailey, a county health worker, spends his days driving his beat-up Nissan around this city's poorest neighborhood, spreading the word in barber shops and convenience stores about the benefits of healthy diet and exercise. "Look at the kids," he said. "Overweight, huffing and wheezing. Their lives will be miserable if this doesn't change."

Mr. Bailey believes that food is slowly killing his community here, and signing people up for a program to prevent heart disease is his way of saving souls.

Local governments across the country are creating dozens of such experiments with money from the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act. It is part of a broad national effort set in motion by the law to nudge a health care system geared toward responding to illness to one that tries to stop people from getting sick in the first place. To that end, the law created the \$10 billion Prevention and Public Health Fund, the largest-ever federal investment in community prevention.

Read the whole story: [*The New York Times*](#)