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Share Your News
NWICA and the NWI Times newspaper join to put a spotlight on poverty

On June 8, 2014, the NWI Times in Northwest Indiana published a special section titled: "The Price of Poverty." The investigative piece highlights poverty specifically in the northwest Indiana region, and seeks to dispel myths and provide information useful in generating conversations leading to creating solutions.

An excerpt from the special section:

But the leaders of at least two region social service agencies agree the social - and financial - cost of doing nothing could be greater than the dollars spent on poor relief.

More individuals and families are finding themselves in need of assistance because of the changing local economy, said Gary Olund, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Indiana Community Action. Fewer jobs available and lower-paying existing jobs add up to increased need at many levels.

"Although we're recovering economically, there are still a lot of people behind the eight ball due to job loss, due to the economic crisis ... you've got folks who never anticipated being in need of assistance," Olund said.

They want to live independently and support their family and themselves, but they lean on social service agencies.

Olund served on the Poverty Advisory Board and believes that this is an extraordinary piece that is vital to the region's success.

Further reading

• The staff at Northwest Indiana Community Action, along with The Times, invite you to read
all of the stories that ran in print: Special Section: The Price of Poverty
  • Suggested reading to spur debate, understanding, solutions

Please share the stories, share your solutions, talk about poverty and help people help themselves and others!

Submitted by Melissa Bohacek, CCAP, Northwest Indiana Community Action

TRI-CAP awarded $500,000 for senior housing project
Affordable Housing Project funds will be used to develop a portion of former hospital

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis announced on July 18, 2014, that TRI-CAP was awarded $500,000 in Affordable Housing Project (AHP) funds to develop a portion of the former St. Joseph's Hospital in Huntingburg into senior housing. As a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), TRI-CAP will partner with Miller-Valentine Group on the project.

Previously Miller-Valentine had received $798,000 in tax credits towards the project, which will
provide 45 senior housing units. The hospital has sat vacant since 2007. The portion of the building not being used for senior housing will be renovated to relocate an existing senior citizens center and community health care facilities.

This is TRI-CAP’s first attempt at an AHP grant, and its $500,000 award was the maximum amount allowed through the grant.

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Submitted by Joyce Fleck, CCAP
Dubois Pike Warrick Economic Opportunity Committee (TRI-CAP)

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Grant opportunity: Innovative Community Collaborations

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is accepting applications from organizations involved with innovative community collaboration projects. The program will provide up to $100,000 in total funding to one or more grant applicants.

To qualify, applicants must:

- demonstrate a collaboration between a local community action agency and other organizations with similar mission and focus
- incorporate technology
- serve low-income families at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level
- show that the project or program is based on a recent needs assessment.

Applications are due Sept. 1, 2014, by 5 p.m. EST. For more information, email Greg Stocking, IHCDA Community Programs Analyst, or call (800) 872-0371.

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From an IHCDA e-newsletter

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Community Impact
Elementary kids volunteer to collect items for Emergency Needs Pantry

Evansville Christian School’s Super Summer Day Camp participants collected donations for Community Action Program of Evansville’s (CAPE’s) Emergency Needs Pantry July 7-18. The "Food & Diaper Frenzy" featured a competition among groups of kindergarten through eighth grade students, with the kindergarteners through second graders winning the contest and earning a pizza party.

CAPE received a total of 1,412 disposable diapers and 343 non-perishable food items for the pantry. CAPE thanks the Evansville Christian School day campers for this generous volunteer effort!
On July 25, fourth grade summer campers and their leaders delivered items collected during Evansville Christian Schools Food & Diaper Frenzy to CAPE.

Submitted by Gale Brocksmith, Community Action Program of Evansville

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Nearly 3,000 free meals help children meet nutritional needs during summer months

Children ages 18 and younger in two communities served by Area IV Agency were able to receive free meals this summer, thanks to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Head Start.

By providing a healthy breakfast and lunch each day during the months of June and July, the program helps ensure that eligible children receive proper nutrition throughout the season when the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals are not available. SFSP reimburses Head Start for providing this service to eligible children at three locations.

At one location, the Head Start building within a city park in Monticello, many families came to enjoy breakfast, play in the park for a few hours and then return for lunch. By mid-July, the location had served 1,017 meals.

At the Frankfort Head Start building, children - many of whom walk to the location, either alone or escorted by older friends or family members - eat lunch in the classrooms. Frankfort community members could also receive supper during one week in June at the program's third location, First Baptist Church. By mid-July, Frankfort community members had received 1,876 meals.

The program was a community-wide success - and a community-wide effort.
For the Monticello program:

- Local radio station 107.7 FM WMRS advertised location and meal times each day.
- Food Finders, coordinated by Patti Godlove, handed out flyers throughout town and donated a bag of food per child to take home once a week.
- Mitch Billue and Cindy Isom from the Monticello Parks Department aligned park activities around the lunch schedule to help pull in children that would benefit from both programs.
- Christ Fellowship Church held children’s activities once a week in the park and encouraged children to attend the meal programs.
- Many wonderful volunteers from the local Baptist, Presbyterian and Catholic churches enjoyed their time and want to return next year.

For the Frankfort program, Head Start partnered with El Camino, a local day care center that hopes to partner again next summer. Five Head Start staff members were able to be employed over the summer months, preparing fresh hot and cold meals on site.

The Head Start staff enjoys seeing the smiles on the children's faces and receiving excited thank-yous. Being able to provide “Food that’s in when school is out!” has been rewarding for all of the Head Start staff, volunteers and community partners involved. We hope to see the meal program continue to grow and flourish in years to come, as this provides children with needed nutritious meals on a routine basis.

Our goal of food security strives to help families improve their lives and thereby the communities in which they live.

Submitted by Donna Collier, CCAP
Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs

Spotlight on Professionals

CAPWI employee earns national certification

Robin Curry, an employee of Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana, was one of 76 individuals who recently became Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAPs). She will be honored Aug. 22 by the Community Action Partnership (administrator of the CCAP program) during the organization's 50th anniversary Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

CCAP is a national credentialing program
for Community Action managers and leaders who work helping low-income people achieve economic stability. CCAP candidates must prove their Community Action proficiency through completion of a detailed assessment of their:

- knowledge of poverty theories, causes and remedies
- ability to help low-income people achieve financial stability
- comprehension of the mission, vision and values of Community Action.

In order to successfully complete the process, they are required to:

- provide an extensive record of their management and leadership skills and involvement in anti-poverty initiatives on the local, state and national levels
- develop a portfolio highlighting their education, training and accomplishments
- pass a written exam.

To date, there are 550 CCAPs across the country, representing rural, urban and suburban Community Action Agencies.

"Becoming a CCAP improved my comprehension of why Community Action Agencies were created and how they help millions of Americans escape poverty each year," said Curry. "The process underscored that understanding the causes and conditions of poverty and individual circumstances are critical to helping people achieve economic security."

This year, the Community Action network is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act on August 20, 1964. This act created Community Action Agencies as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. "In 2014, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Community Action and this is especially significant to our CCAPs who must grasp our unique history," said Thomas Tenorio, CCAP, Chair of the Board of Directors and CCAP Commission at the Community Action Partnership. "CCAPs' mastery of our network's initial beginnings coupled with a keen comprehension of current economic challenges boosts their ability to help low-income people."

Submitted by Kathy Walker, Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana

Robin Curry recently became a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP).
**Recent blog posts we recommend**

**Inequality in Indy: A Rising Problem with Ready Solutions**
by Derek Thomas, Indiana Institute for Working Families

Earlier this month, the *Indianapolis Star* reported on the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ "Income and Wage Gaps Across the U.S." report. The article shared details about wage inequality in the Indianapolis metro area, compared with the rest of the nation. The Indiana Institute of Working Families has spotlighted similar problems in its report, "Work and Poverty in Marion County." This blog post discusses both.

**Indiana's Kids Count on us for Policies to Improve Child Poverty, Too!**
by Andrew Bradley, Indiana Institute for Working Families

Kids Count and Indiana Youth Institute recently released data that reveals that the poverty rate for Indiana’s children has worsened over the past decade, jeopardizing the economic well-being for today’s kids - and for the social and economic future of our state. This blog post discusses the problem - and recommends steps toward a solution.

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SHARE YOUR NEWS!

This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,500 subscribers each month. Have some news to share? Submit it for inclusion.

The next submission deadline:
FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 2014

The next distribution date (target):
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, 2014

Click this image to access guidelines for submission. Thank you for keeping in touch!

Questions about what you’ve read in this issue?
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