

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Indiana Community Action Network Newsletter

January 2009

## Indiana Community Action Network Annual Meeting

The 2008 Indiana Community Action Annual meeting was held on December 10, 2008 at the Marott, located in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's meeting theme was "Community Action - Growing the Middle Class." The meeting was held to showcase past program participants who received support through their local Community Action Agency and have achieved success and increased economic self-sufficiency as a result. Seven program participants, served by the Area Five Agency on Aging & Community Services, Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Community Action of Southern Indiana, the Community Action Program of Western Indiana, and the Interlocal Community Action Program, shared their stories with with CAA staff, IHEDA staff, state legislators, and other service providers.

Additionally, brief program overviews of the programs participants benefited from including Individual Development Accounts and Family Development were given. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this event.

Below are some of the program participants' stories and pictures from the event. We hope this will serve as a reminder of how important the work of the Indiana Community Action Network is for many Hoosiers.



### In This Issue

[Annual Meeting](#)  
[NWICA Receives IRS Funding](#)  
[Client Spotlight](#)  
[IHEDA Quarterly Meeting](#)  
[Make-Up ROMA Training](#)  
[David Bradley at SCED](#)  
[National Trainings](#)  
[About the Network](#)

### Join Our Mailing List

### About the Indiana Community Action Network

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) established over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) at the local level to implement EOA programs. EOA programs included: VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America); Job Corps; Neighborhood Youth Corps; Head Start; Adult Basic Education; Family Planning; Community Health Centers; Congregate Meal Preparation; Economic Development; Foster Grandparents; Legal Services; Neighborhood Centers; Summer Youth Programs; Senior Centers; and others.

Holly Lee (pictured above), who worked with the Interlocal Community Action Agency (ICAP) located in New Castle, Indiana, wanted to own her own home and get an education. Holly utilized services from ICAP, including an IDA to pay for her college education and has earned an Associate's degree in Accounting from Indiana University - East. She's continuing with her studies and hopes to receive her Bachelors Degree in accounting soon. In addition, with the assistance of Habitat for Humanity, Holly's dream of becoming a homeowner came true. She moved into her new home last year. Holly currently works full-time at a manufacturing plant in New Castle. She is married with two children and lives in Shirley, Indiana.



Scott Donavan (pictured above, on left) worked with the Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI), located in Covington, Indiana. Scott was a local building contractor, who owned his own business in Darlington, Indiana. He created a business plan and received a micro loan from CAPWI, and as a result he was able to expand his business, purchase additional equipment, and is now able to offer additional services through his business.

CAAs vary widely, with some being non-profit groups, others being city agencies, and some being community-controlled groups. Many CAAs vary greatly in how their agencies are organized and in the type of services they provide to their local communities. In fact, the number of CAAs has increased and it is now estimated that CAAs serve over 80 percent of all U.S. counties. Although CAAs were established over 40 years ago, they have a rich history of advocacy for and service to low-income people and remain important in domestic social policy to the present day.

We have 24 Community Action Agencies that serve all 92 counties of Indiana. Each Community Action Agency periodically analyzes community needs to identify strategies that will work best in attacking poverty. Each CAA is different because its programs reflect the needs of their local communities. These agencies are unique in their ability to deploy diverse program activities and services in meeting their mission. They operate an array of programs which include, but are not limited to: Head Start; the Energy Assistance Program; the Weatherization Program; Individual Development Accounts; Homeownership Counseling; Owner Occupied Rehabilitation; Housing Development; Foster Grandparents; Child Care; and many more programs and services.

To find your local CAA or to learn more about the

Indiana Community Action Network or State Association, please visit [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org).

---



Barbara Zook (pictured above, on left) was working a minimum wage job when she began in the IDA program at Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services located in Logansport, Indiana. She used her IDA account to pay for post-secondary education and earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing (LPN) from Ivy Tech and currently has a job in her field paying \$20 an hour plus benefits. Barbara has also chosen to continue her education and is working on a Bachelors degree in Nursing (RN).



Nina Thompson (pictured above, on left), who received services from Community Action of Southern Indiana located in Jeffersonville, Indiana, used her IDA to purchase a new home. This program enabled this single-mother of three to move from public housing and enabled her to provide a brighter future for her and her three children.





## NWICA Receives IRS Grant

In November, the Internal Revenue Service awarded almost \$8 million in matching grants to support its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Under the VITA Grant Program, the IRS awarded matching grants to 111 organizations that plan to offer free tax preparation sites in 2009. The sites will be located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Northwest Indiana Community Action (NWICA) was one of three recipients in the State of Indiana to receive first-time funding from the IRS for free tax preparation for low-income households. The grant will support the NWICA's A\$\$et Building Campaign.

NWICA faced stiff competition for the grant. IRS reported an overwhelming response to the first-ever VITA grant with 379 organizations submitting applications requesting more than \$30 million in matching funds.

"We see this award as recognition of the outstanding community effort by the A\$\$et Building Campaign," said NWICA Executive Director Gary Olund. "NWICA is proud of our lead role in the coalition which makes such a significant difference in the lives of so many working families."

In 2008, the NWICA staff and volunteers completed some 1500 tax returns, returning nearly \$1.3 million dollars in federal refunds to the community. The entire A\$\$et Building partnership in Northwest Indiana filed more than 3,800 returns.

The grant awarded by IRS will support the activities for the 2008-2009 tax filing season. These funds will enable NWICA to increase the number of sites, with a special focus on non-English speaking communities in Hammond and East Chicago.

In addition to Northwest Indiana Community Action, the City of

Indianapolis, and Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition in Jeffersonville received these IRS grants.



## Client Spotlight

### Community Action of Northeast Indiana's (CANI) Employment Skills Workshop Helps Man

After being a meat cutter for 36 years in the Fort Wayne area, Michael Cassady found himself out of work. For eight months Michael diligently sought employment, looking through newspaper ads and doing computer searches. One day in October, Michael saw an ad about an Employment Skills Workshop offered by CANI.

Dianne Jenkins, CANI's Family Education Specialist, conducted the workshop. Since Michael had not had to look for work in many years, Ms. Jenkins started by offering interviewing tips.

"In talking with Michael I asked him exactly what he would like to do. He said that he wanted to give back to the community and help others," said Ms. Jenkins. "I told him I knew of an agency that is always looking for good people with a heart for others. I told Michael about Anthony Wayne Services which provides direct care services to infants, children, and adults with disabilities."

Ms. Jenkins suggested that Michael go directly to Anthony Wayne Services and ask to fill out an application even if they were not hiring. "I told him to be assertive and confident." Michael left CANI and went directly to Anthony Wayne Services as Ms. Jenkins suggested.

The following morning Michael came back to CANI to let Ms. Jenkins know that he was on his way to an interview at Anthony Wayne Services. They went over Michael's resume and Ms. Jenkins made some suggestions for improvement. Michael was given a second interview and began his employment with Anthony Wayne Services on Monday, November 17, 2008.

"I believe that God puts us in places for a reason and I just felt like I should come to the workshop that day at the CANI office," said Michael. "It resulted in a job where I can give back to the community. Coming to the CANI Employment Skills Workshop that day changed my life!"

CANI is happy for Michael and wishes him continued success in his new career. For information on Employment Skill Workshops and other trainings, contact Dianne Jenkins with CANI at (260) 423-3546 or (800) 589-2264.



## IHCDA Quarterly Meeting with CAA Directors

January 23, 2009

This is a reminder that the first IHCDA Quarterly Meeting with CAA Directors is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2009. The meeting is scheduled to be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (EST) at IN-CAA.

To register, visit the Community Action Training Section of IN-CAA's web site at [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Travis at [ltravis@incap.org](mailto:ltravis@incap.org) or 1-800-382-9895..

---

## Make-Up ROMA Training

January 26, 2009

The Make-Up ROMA training has been rescheduled and will be held on January 26, 2009 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at IN-CAA.

This training will cover the same subjects that representatives from NASCSP covered on October 15, 2008. Some agencies were not represented in the earlier training so staff from those agencies are strongly encouraged to attend.

This will also be a good opportunity for agency staff who did attend to refresh their understanding of the IS (Information Survey) requirements for the 2008 report that is due by February 27, 2009. We hope to have lively discussion and many questions.

To learn more about this training, or to register, please visit the Community Action Training section of IN-CAA's web site at [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org). **The registration deadline is Friday, January 23, 2009!** If you have other questions about the training, please feel free to contact Lisa Travis, Team Leader, CAA Network Support, at [ltravis@incap.org](mailto:ltravis@incap.org) or 1-800-382-9895.

---

## David Bradley with National Community Action Foundation to Speak at SCED

February 13, 2009

Lisa Travis, Team Leader, CAA Network support is currently working on a Masters Degree from the School of Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). SNHU is hosting a Speaker's Series that takes place monthly from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. The Speakers Series allows you to hear from experts in various CED sectors who will provide real-world examples that you can apply in your own communities. Many of the

presenters in the speakers series have provided interesting information that I think would be of interest to CAAs and may provide new programs and ideas for CAA programs and/or funding.

This year's speakers touch upon several aspects of the CED movement, including cooperative and credit unions, the role of community action in CED, community development finance and capital markets, and more. Each speaker delivers a 1 - 1½ hour long lecture focusing on the work that you do daily and how that work intersects with the movement of Community Economic Development. To view the complete list of speakers, please visit, <http://www.snhu.edu/7984.asp>.

Each session is streamed live beginning at 12:30 pm, at <http://www.snhu.edu/2175.asp> and click on the off campus Live Stream link.

This month David Bradley with the National Community Action Foundation will be giving a presentation on the role of Community Action in the CED movement as well as an update on federal legislation. David's presentation will be on Friday, February 13, 2009. To view his presentation, at 12:30 pm go to the following URL, <http://www.snhu.edu/2175.asp> and click on the off campus Live Stream link.

---

## National Training Opportunities

### National Association for State Community Services Programs, 2009 Mid-Winter Training Conference

The first two days of the conference (February 2-3, 2009) are dedicated to the orientation and training of CSBG and WAP state directors and their staff, targeting newer directors. Attendees will be provided with a comprehensive overview of both programs, including a review of their respective governing rules and regulations, reporting requirements and operating procedures. There is no fee for the Orientation Seminar for state administrators and staff. Non-state employed registrants will be charged \$175 per attendee. This charge will cover the cost of two lunches and materials. Everyone is expected to pay his or her own travel expenses.

The remainder of the conference (February 4-6, 2009) provides a valuable opportunity for state administrators from around the country to come together and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. It is important that each state be represented in critical discussions on CSBG reauthorization, the WAP and efforts to increase and preserve funding for both programs. Attendees will have the opportunity to work closely with HHS and DOE central and regional office staff, other state and local CSBG/WAP administrators as well as national advocacy groups. The fee for attending the conference is \$395 for the first registrant from your organization and \$370 for each additional registrant from your organization. Separate workshop tracks address the distinct programmatic concerns of WAP and CSBG programs. It will be impossible for one person to cover all of the workshops; therefore, we highly recommend that more than one person from each state attend the conference.

The conference will be held February 2-6, 2009 at the Washington DC Marriott in Washington, DC. To learn more, please visit: [www.nascsp.org/events.htm](http://www.nascsp.org/events.htm). For further questions, please email the Gove Group at: [nascsp@gove.org](mailto:nascsp@gove.org).

Details on the WAP and the CSBG Orientation Seminars hotel and travel information are provided in the Conference Registration Form that encompasses both events.

### CAPLAW, National Training Conference 2009

Nonprofits today face an ever-increasing array of rules and regulations. How do you comply without losing sight of your organizations's mission and program goals? Attend CAPLAW's National Training Conference and find out. Our expert faculty of attorneys, accountants, government officials and nonprofit managers will give you the tools you need to resolve the legal, financial, and management questions you encounter every day. The conference workshops focus on fiscal, governance, and human resources issues, as well as workshops on a variety of other topics. Workshops are relevant to nonprofits generally, with a specific focus on issues faced by Community Action Agencies (CAAs), Head Start programs, and other federal grant recipients.

The 2009 conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, June 24-26, 2009. Registration and conference program will posted in the coming months, check [www.capl原因.org/conferences.html](http://www.capl原因.org/conferences.html) for updates.

---

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [ltravis@incap.org](mailto:ltravis@incap.org) by [ltravis@incap.org](mailto:ltravis@incap.org).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Indiana Community Action Association | 1845 W. 18th St. | Indianapolis | IN | 46202