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Indiana Community Action Network Newsletter

April 2009

CANI Employee Participates in United Way Reading Program

The role of a Family Advocate is to reach out to families in the Head Start program, so it's no wonder Community Action Northeast Indiana's (CANI) Neal Davis has taken on a similar role outside of his day job.



Photo Caption: Neal Davis reads to an afternoon CANI Head Start student at the Temple site.

Photo By Lauren Caggiano, CANI Development Coordinator

Neal Davis is a Family Advocate for CANI Head Start (Fort Wayne, Ind.) and a part of the United Way of Allen County's Learn United "Real Men Read" campaign. This community-based reading program attempts to close the third-grade reading achievement gap. Learn United is led by United Way of Allen County and the Allen County Education Partnership; Fort Wayne Community Schools, East Allen County Schools and the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce are all Learn United partners.

As a "MENtor" volunteer, Davis visits a second-grade class at Croninger Elementary to read a few stories every month and most importantly offer a positive male presence in the classroom.

Although fairly new to CANI, Davis is no stranger to the social services field.

"I always felt the need to work to serve," he said. "I have a passion to help children."

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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.

CAAs vary widely, with

Davis said although his time in the classroom is limited, he has already seen how his role fits in the bigger picture of changing lives. A positive male influence is critical to child development and Davis is working to fulfill this role with his sincere message:

"It's important to take education seriously," he said. "Reading is a fundamental foundation to a great career."

And out of the mouth of babes come some funny things.

"You'll never know what you'll get with the kids," he said. "It's amazing to see their different personalities."



Client Spotlight

Community Action Program Inc. of Western Indiana Awards Scholarships to Local Youth

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI) has instituted a Scholarship Program in memory of Joan E. Cline. Joan was the Executive Director of CAPWI for 33 years. Joan dedicated her life to helping families and individuals become self-sufficient. Of the many tools we utilize to achieve that goal, education is primary. She also believed that assistance in all through higher education was necessary. The scholarship is open to those who want Associates Degrees, Bachelors Degrees, or Trade School Degrees. One thousand dollars per year up to a total of \$4,000 is given to each recipient. This year IN-CAA shared in funding these scholarships. IN-CAA also plans to share in the financial support of other CAA scholarship programs. This will also be done in memory of Joan E. Cline.



From left to right: Miranda McCormick- Scholarship Recipient, Don

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

Andrews- Board President, Codie Snyder-Scholarship Recipient, Steve Proctor-Exec Director, Emma Campbell-Scholarship Recipient.

Association, please visit
www.incap.org.

2009 Scholarship winners are:

Miranda McCormack - Miranda is a student at Benton Central High School. She has had a busy high school career participating in extra-curricular activities such as 4-H, Indiana Hoosier Girls State, Student Council, Math and Science Academic Bowl teams, as well as, playing soccer and softball. She also has been involved in community activities such as a Suicide Prevention Group and as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. In one of her reference letters, her community contributions were summed up as follows "Miranda has generously contributed her time and talents to causes that don't benefit herself. She never looks for a reward. She represents selflessness that can only come from within. Miranda possesses a genuine desire to help her fellow man and I see her continuing her desire far into the future." Miranda ranks second out of her class of 145 and has an impressive 3.976 GPA. This is while taking all honors courses! Miranda plans to attend Purdue University majoring in engineering with hopes to obtain Purdue's Certificate of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Miranda lives in Fowler and is the daughter of Linda Pitstick and Todd McCormack.

Codie Snyder - Codie is a senior at North Montgomery High School. He has spent his high school years being very involved with music and has performed with ensembles such as the Wabash College Jazz Band, Indiana State University All Star Band, Butler University All Star Band as well as the concert, jazz, and marching bands at North Montgomery. Codie is also very involved in his church as stated by one of Codie's references "he is a young man who has made the most of his high school career. In all areas, especially music, he can perform at a very high level. Not to reward him for his excellence would be an injustice. Money spent on his education is money well-invested." Codie is in the top 12% of his class, with a ranking of 21 out of 175. He takes honors courses and carries an overall GPA of 3.87 with a GPA of 4.0 for his senior year. Codie plans to attend Indiana State University majoring in music education. Codie is the son of Virginia Shively. He currently lives with his grandparents, Steve and Janice Snyder in rural Crawfordsville.

Emma Campbell - Emma is a student at Fountain Central High School. Emma has been active in Student Council, Yearbook Staff, Hoosier Girls State, Fountain Central's Book Club, and various Academic Teams. She has also been active in community activities such as blood drives and peer mentoring. She can often be found at the Veedersburg Public Library where she works part-time. In one of her reference letters, it states "Emma takes on life with an energy level that puts others to shame. She sincerely enjoys all she does and makes others around her feel important. It is this type of person that makes others feel good about themselves and is a wonderful trait to have." Emma is ranked 10 out of 92 and has taken all honors courses through high school, with a GPA of 2.84. Emma plans to attend St. Mary of the Woods College majoring in psychology with possible minors in English or religious studies. Emma lives in rural Veedersburg and is the daughter of Jerry and Brenda Campbell.

NLIHC Releases 2009 Out of Reach Report

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released its annual *Out of Reach* report on April 14, 2009. Out of Reach 2009 reports that the national average two-bedroom Housing Wage rose to \$17.84, up from \$17.32 last year. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage that a household must earn in order to afford the Fair Market Rent (FMR), assuming full-time, year-round employment. This year's Housing Wage translates to an annual income of \$37,105.

The report finds that someone earning the federal minimum wage of \$6.55 must work 109 hours per week to afford the national average two-bedroom FMR of \$928. Consistent with last year's findings, there is no metropolitan area or rural county in the country where even the one-bedroom FMR is affordable with a full-time job at the prevailing minimum wage.

In 30 states, more than two full-time minimum wage jobs are required to afford the two-bedroom FMR. In Indiana, the two-bedroom Housing Wage is \$13.41, meaning a person would need to work two full-time minimum wage jobs to afford a two-bedroom rental housing unit.

Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, noted that housing affordability for renters is expected to suffer as unemployment continues to rise and rents largely remain stable.

"The longstanding structural deficit of rental homes that the lowest income people can afford, exacerbated by the economic recession, will surely lead to more people becoming homeless," Ms. Crowley, president of NLIHC, said on the report's release. "We hope that Out of Reach will demonstrate to policy makers the urgency of acting now to increase the supply of affordable housing and housing assistance for those who are hit hardest by the recession."

Published since 1989, Out of Reach compares the cost of rental housing with household incomes, each state's minimum wage, and average renter wages in every state, metropolitan area, and county in the country. Rental costs and household incomes reflect FMRs and median family incomes published by HUD, and renter wages are based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The introduction to Out of Reach connects the new local data to the unemployment and foreclosure crises, provides state-level findings, and provides several tables showing rankings among states and regions.

The report and additional Out of Reach data are available at www.nlihc.org/oor2009.

With the release of Out of Reach 2009, NLIHC has updated its Congressional District Profiles with the Out of Reach data.

Congressional District Profiles are fact sheets that contain housing data for each of the 435 congressional districts and the District of Columbia. The profiles provide information on the shortage of affordable rental housing and the incidence of housing cost burden for the districts. Out of Reach 2009 data for metropolitan areas and

counties in the district are included to demonstrate local rent levels and subsequent Housing Wages for communities in the district. Recent data from the American Community Survey is also used to provide information on the state as a whole.

Congressional District Profiles, which are frequently used by advocates on lobby visits and in other discussions with policymakers, are available on NLIHC's website at www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article_id=3810&id=61.



Statewide Conference for Indiana's CAAs

Registration for the 2009 Statewide Conference for Indiana's Community is now open! **DO NOT register for the MACAA conference, that registration is for non-Indiana CAAs only.**

To register for the conference, visit IN-CAA's web site at www.incap.org, and click on the Community Action Training section. **Registration is once again based on room occupancy and the registration deadline is July 29, 2009!**

Also there is a button on IN-CAA's home page that links to conference web page where all the information about conference and updates will be posted. The general conference information brochure and an RFP for workshop proposals is posted on this section of IN-CAA's web site. **Workshop proposals are due by May 20, 2009!**

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

Registration Now Open for Indiana Training Institute Trainings

The Indiana Training Institute (ITI) Trainings for March and April 2009 are now posted Community Action Training section of IN-CAA's website at www.incap.org. Training information posted includes trainers, training descriptions, training times, and registration deadlines.

Trainings currently posted include:

- **Our Customers Deserve the Best Training** - May 11-12, 2009
- **Making Strategic Planning Work for You** - May 14, 2009
- **Case Notes Training** - May 18, 2009
- **Purposeful Boards, Powerful Fundraising** - June 4, 2009

- **Motivational Counseling: A to Z Training** - June 11-12, 2009

- **Statewide Conference** - August 10-11, 2009

More ITI training have been scheduled for 2009 and the training and registration information should be available online in the coming weeks.

If you have other questions about the training, please feel free to contact Lisa Travis, Team Leader, CAA Network Support, at ltravis@incap.org or 1-800-382-9895.

Training Materials Available

We have extra training materials from the 2008-2009 Indiana Training Institute program. The following are the materials that remain:

- War on Poverty Binders (12);
- Pathways to Excellence Binders (2);
- Strategic Planning for CAP Agencies (2);
- Current Fiscal Management (2);
- Succession Planning (4);
- Baord Fiscal Oversight (1);
- How to be an Effective Supervisor in a Tlme of Change (3);
- and
- New 990 and Auditing Requirments (4).

If you would like copies of any of these materials, please email Lisa Travis at ltravis@incap.org with which materials you would like and how many, otherwise, we will recycle these materials and binders for future ITI trainings.

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