



# Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc. FALL 2014

HELPING LA PORTE COUNTY THROUGH EMERGENCY HOUSING AND EDUCATION SINCE 1992

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## What's new with CCH?

by Nancy Philippi

**FRANKLIN STREET** We've had our hands full, lately, convincing the businesses in the vicinity of 1800 Franklin Street, that the about-to-be-launched Community Resource Center will not be detrimental to their operations.

On the contrary, we believe that when we open our doors after the first of the year, they will find a new positive community interest in the area. The old stereotype of "bums" that some still attach to men and women who are going through a tough economic period, is out of date. We've been working for years at *Sand Castle Shelter for Children and Families* and *Grace Learning Center* with people experiencing some hard times, and appreciate their value.

Not only do we enjoy them as individuals, but we also admire how they take advantage of some extra help to pull themselves out of their difficulties. As soon as *Keys to Hope Community Resource Center* is open for business, we'll be able to share this vision with everyone.

### INTERNS and STAFF

We've been going full speed as usual at Sand Castle and Grace Learning Center this fall. Some new faces have joined us as interns – (Kristen, put the names in here) – and we are lucky to have Jan Chamberlin teaching our Job Preparation and Retention class.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

There will be some changes in the CCH board at the first of the year. Term Limits have been reached for Denita Ton, Lauretta Hapke and me, and we will be enriched by a new set of officers: Tom McCormick as president, Lillian Sherrod-Young as VP, Amy Penrod as secretary and Rachel Saxon as treasurer. 2015 should be a fabulous year!

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Sand Castle Shelter (SCS) News**  
Super star donations and new shelter successes!



**Grace Learning Center (GLC) News**  
Tutoring Successes, Job Preparation and Retention News, Budding Partnerships, and Volunteering Opportunities

#### CCH DONATION FAST FACT

Consider bringing gently used clothing and household items to Sand Castle or Grace Learning Center.

Grace Learning Center can always use coffee and sugar!

## Sand Castle Shelter News

by Jim Musial

### SAND CASTLE RESIDENTS and BOO at the ZOO

Once again, major shout outs to Ed Beutner (Captain Ed's) Emily Taylor and Courtney Pope (Timothy Jeffery Salon) and the Washington Park Zoo for helping the children, parents, friends of Sand Castle Shelter and select staff and interns enjoy a day of Halloween spirit at Washington Park's BOO AT THE ZOO.

Captain Ed's once again arranged for tickets and costumes so we could enjoy the event. Emily Taylor and Courtney Pope added their touch by providing costume make-up and face painting as well as playing hostesses to a pre-event cupcake part. It is important for us to remember that events like this are not possible for our children without the help and support of fine giving people like Ed, Emily and Courtney.

**SONGS of GIVING HEARTS** Thanks and kudos to all of the Songs of Giving Hearts Charity in Concert artists, performers, volunteers, donors and venue hosts! With two afternoons of music and collaboration over \$1,000.00 was raised for SCS programs

and several bins of food were collected for the MC food pantry system. Thank you to everyone who participated. Michelle Alexander, coordinator of the event (and SCS Flight School instructor), worked tirelessly to put this event together, and the beautiful music supplied by the performers (Nic Orbovich, cast of Oliver, etc.) filled the beautiful venues at Barker Hall and at Notre Dame Church. Thanks again to our participants.



### SUCCESS STORIES

A single mom with 5 children enrolled at SCS with no job and little hope in a new city (lived in MC three months prior to enrollment). She conducted a hard target search (as she was a CNA) but worked at the cookie factory in the interim to save some money. She graduated SCS with TWO CNA positions at St. Anthony's, left the section 8 program and now resides in

permanent private housing. She received one month's rent from Catholic Charities for participating in their Self-Sufficiency Class and was a model SCS resident.

A pregnant mom with two daughter enrolled a SCS hoping to build a new foundation for the future of her family. During intake, she stated her first objective/goal was stability for her children's sake. During her time here, she attended all classes offered by the Grace Learning Center as well as SCS growth programs and classes, lived quietly in community and succeeded in her goal. She was hired full time at Blue Chip, received Rapid Rehousing assistance which will allow her to save most of her paycheck for the next year. Goal of stability accomplished.

### SCS FAST FACT

In the last 12 months, **76% of Sand Castle residents graduated to permanent private housing**, 26% above the state mandate for temporary emergency shelters.

<https://www.facebook.com/10058thst?ref=hl>



## Grace Learning Center News

by Kristen Patterson

*One of our clients has been working with a tutor for over a year now. Before, he could only read very short paragraphs; now, he has read over 7 of these classics from Oxford University Press. This book company specialized in adaptive literature for adults, and we love them.*



### GLC FAST FACT

GLC partners with nearly all the adult education agencies in La Porte County. We all work towards helping adults get on their feet through education. Three of our biggest partnerships include AK Smith, the MC Public Library, and READ La Porte County.

### Tutoring Successes

This summer was BUSY! We typically

have an increase in adult learning over the summer. We administered over 20 tests and got three people ready for the high school equivalency test, which they were able to take this August. We are looking forward to hearing the results!

This summer also saw some of our past clients come back for another round. We welcomed back two learners who took personal hiatuses, and both tested out of their previous books and are doing great!

### Job Preparation & Retention Program News

While we are sad to see our supporter and part time instructor, Althea Allen, leave us for the state of Mississippi, we are pleased to announce that Jan Chamberlin is our new Job Preparation and Retention Director. Jan has jumped with both feet and is off to a wonderful start. She is a longtime community activist and brings a wealth of knowledge and teaching expertise. We are ecstatic to have her on our team.

### Budding Partnership

Once a week, GLC hosted at risk teens who were participating in a day treatment program. The teens and their facilitators used the computer to do things like search for jobs and complete resumes. It was a wonderful opportunity for all, and our combined hope is to prevent homelessness in these teens and encourage them to see their futures differently.

### Gardening Coming Soon

The location of Grace Learning Center is in a "food desert" which means that there is not assessable grocery store within 1 mile. Our clients deserve to have health food options, which are not available at the 2 local corner stores. That being stated, we decided to do something about it. What better way to help budgets than to save money by growing your own vegetables and fruits?

Grace Learning Center almost always needs tutors, and the subject matter is almost always under the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.

We also could use volunteers to help in the computer lab to help clients with questions. Or, if you have another talent you think we could use, feel free to contact Kristen at (219) 879-6788.

<https://www.facebook.com/gracelearningcentermc?ref=hl>

