



HELPING LA PORTE COUNTY THROUGH EMERGENCY HOUSING, EDUCATION, & RESOURCES
SINCE 1992

Organizational Insight

First-hand observations from those most in the know. This quarter, a 500 foot view from one of CCH's newest members. See what Joshua sees in his letter to you: our neighbor, supporter, and community partner.

Dear Neighbor,

This spring is beautiful. I mean, absolutely delightful to be out in. The trees are budding after a season of sticks. The grass is turning green after a season of brown. Flowers are appearing out of seeming nothingness. I truly hope you have been able to enjoy this season of flourishing, new life as I and my family have.

At Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, we have been enjoying the new life of individuals and families transformed. Out of nothing but the seeds of their potential, we have seen new growth, and new life emerge in beautifully vibrant ways.

Grace Learning Center is still doing what it does best: empowering people to rise and embrace the skills and education they need to accomplish their goals. Kristen is continuing to provide the programming that is best suited to the individuals that we serve, so that they can grow and flourish.

Jim has been working hard to make sure that our homeless families are able to take root and get out of homelessness. His tireless effort to provide the right environment and atmosphere for them to grow and blossom is nothing short of amazing, and the success rate of Sandcastle Shelter for Homeless Families shows that well.

And now, it is my pleasure to boast about our most recent addition: Keys to Hope. I am proud of this new program. Having been part of the Keys to Hope Resource Center since before CCH adopted it, I am proud to say it is open, and the leadership is doing an excellent job. Lesley Saliga, the new director is already doing an excellent job, developing plans for success for over 45 individuals in the first month alone. Keys to Hope is making a huge impact already as people walk out of there saying, "I now have hope, because I now have a plan."

We depend on you to keep these life changing programs going. Your support is like the rain that helps all the parts work to bring the seed out to blossom into the beautiful, purposeful plant that it was designed to be. Please support Citizens Concerned for the Homeless this year. We rely on all manner of support: volunteers, donations, and money. Your support is truly an investment in the future of our city.

Sincerely,

Joshua Moran

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc. Summer 2015

EVENTS NOT TO MISS

Be our guest at these
upcoming events!

1.  **Grand Opening!**

Tuesday, June 9th
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
1802 Franklin St.

Michigan City, IN 46360

Call Lesley Saliga to RSVP:
219-809-9903

2. 3rd Annual
Summer Celebration
JUNE 21st

1005 W. 8th Street (Outside)
Michigan City, IN 46360

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

There will be CHEAP Fun with
Food, Games, & Other Attractions
and Activities!!!

3. **Golf Outing Fundraiser**
AUGUST 16th



Call Jim to sponsor a hole, or
register a team. He can be reached
at: 219-879-2552

Sand Castle Shelter

by Jim Musial

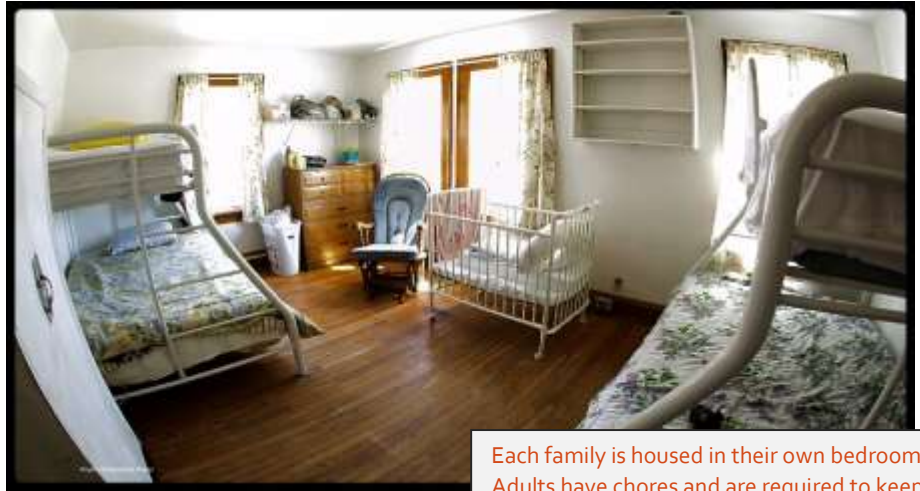
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS/
PROGRAMS

When we author the grant application for the Emergency Solutions Grant of Indiana Housing and Community Development Association, it means we are almost at the end of our fiscal year. It also means the 10 month report card for the Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families and its programs.

With two months to go, Sand Castle Shelter has already served 38 families and over 100 individuals. More importantly, the truly representative numbers are that more than 60% of our families graduated with increased income levels and more than 80% graduated to permanent private housing, numbers far exceeding the standards set for emergency temporary shelters in the State of Indiana. 100% of our graduating clients left Sand Castle with health insurance coverage.

For this, SCS has its community partners and their programs to thank. We begin with our sister program, the Grace Learning Center and its Executive Director, Kristen Patterson. From the Resume Building Workshop to the Searching for Employment on the Internet class (among others), GLC is almost always the first stop for our new residents as they search for living wage employment. Housing Opportunities and their Rapid Rehousing Program funded a number of families this year, providing matching funds to assist in their fresh start. Michelle Alexander, LCSW and her Flight School class helped so many of our adult residents deal with this difficult transition. Nutritionist Jody Kutch of Purdue University, Indiana



Each family is housed in their own bedroom. Adults have chores and are required to keep their area in tip top shape.

More than 80% graduated to permanent private housing

Extension, worked with our residents on cooking and eating healthy as a family. Also, special thanks to Dennis Britton (Children's Music Therapy), April Burns (Children's Tutor program), Marv LaRue (Marv the Furniture Guy), Fred DeVries (client Auto Repair), HealthLink (Nila Williams and team) and Covering Kids and Families (Donnicka Hurt, Nakia Bonds and team) and all of the individual, church and business contributors (monetary, in-kind and volunteer donations). Without each and every one of you, Sand Castle Shelter would not exist, let alone thrive. We look forward to another fantastic year with our clients and our community partners. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

SCS SUCCESS STORIES

Family Success Stories. We are very proud of all of families who work our program hard and graduate to successful fresh start! Here are a few recent stories that stand out.

A single mom with four boys and a serious addiction issue enrolled at SCS. Through a 12 step program and in-shelter support systems (Michelle Alexander, LCSW and her Flight-School Program), Mom graduated with a full time job as a CNA, sobriety throughout the program (and afterward as we discovered through our post-graduation tracking system)

and a lovely new home. She has volunteered to come back to SCS and teach a yoga program, something that also helped her deal with her emotional struggles.

A single mom with six children enrolled at SCS with little hope of what she was going to do; she was in total survival mode. Shortly after moving in, she applied for and secured a full time job, with benefits, as a clerk at a local health care provider. She participated in all SCS classes and programs, but had a very difficult time finding a new home (our experience reveals landlords are very reluctant to rent to large families). She persevered and found the perfect house for her family to make a home.

A single mom with two toddlers joined us at SCS very despondent as to her circumstances. With a new resume in hand (thank you Grace Learning Center and Kristen Patterson), she secured a good customer service position in the local hospitality arena. She began saving her earnings through the SCS savings program and quickly secured an apartment in our neighborhood. With the help of the SCS Housewares Program and Marv LaRue (Marv the Furniture Guy), she got everything she needed for her fresh start!

SCS FAST FACT

SCS has resident techs and supervised interns who provide individualized case management to each and every client.

Grace Learning Center

by Kristen Patterson

The garden is coming!

With lots of planning and conversations, Grace Learning Center's garden will be in.

GLC is working with a contractor with the court system who teaches carpentry skills to people currently being serviced by the courts for rehabilitation.

Once those are in, the compost will be donated, and the seeds are already waiting. Classes will start where clients can learn to plant and then take home their vegetables.

If you have an interest in being a part of the garden, or donating gloves, trowels, containers, or anything else you feel might help our garden, please call Kristen at: 219-879-6788.



Life Skills Classes

Purdue North Central's interns change GLC for the better. Now we have structured classes to help individuals and families save money through: couponing and making homemade laundry soap and baby wipes.

On top of that, two of the interns worked with three clients for one month in G.R.A.C.E. group. The curriculum focused on positive self-talk and changing from victim to victor through future planning and goal setting. All of the participants did not want the group to end. Two of them encouraged one another to take our Job Preparation and Retention Program together as well as some classes with our partners at Ivy Tech and AK Smith. Both ladies found confidence and drive!

GLC Success Stories

Single mom, C, who works part time, is looking for more work, but is feverously working every minute she can on math so that she might earn her High School Equivalency. Currently, she takes home anywhere between 6-8 worksheets twice a week, after meeting with her tutor so that she can keep on the move.

Now that Keys to Hope is open, clients are taking full benefit of our tutoring. 2 men who tried tutoring before with us, have now become steady participant learners thanks to the case-management of Lesley at KTH. Through the partnership, a volunteer named Chuck decided he would like to work with these men who are trying to change their lives. Chuck established quick relationships with the men, and even added another guy in the



mix. Chuck spends most of his Tuesday at GLC using the Wilson reading system, which is phonics based. The third gentleman is brushing up on his English skills, with the hopes of earning his High School Equivalency as well.

GLC FAST FACT

Clients LOVE the Basic Computer Skills class and it shows.

221

221 check ins have been made for class This past quarter.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, contact Kristen today!

CCH Organization Information

Our Board of Directors

Tom McCormick, President
Lillian Sherrod-Young, VP
Amy Penrod, Secretary
Rachel Saxon, Treasurer
Michael Bergerson
Lila Hakim
Ed Merrion
Willie Milsap
Joshua Moran
Gene Simmons

Want to contact us about something you see?

Sand Castle Shelter

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mhomeless@ameritech.net
Jim Musial, Director

Grace Learning Center

219-879-6788
gracelearningcentermc@gmail.com
Kristen Patterson, Director

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center

219-809-9903
keystohopecrc@gmail.com
Lesley Saliga, Director

For more information and the latest news, check out: www.citizens4homeless.org
Or, even better, "Like" our pages on Facebook!



Introducing, CCH's newest program...

Keys to Hope

by Lesley Saliga

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

KTH is off to a phenomenal start. Since we opened our doors on April 13th, we have had 62 participants, 745 visits, and 679 total uses of our shower, computer and laundry amenities. KTH has also coordinated collaborative partnerships with more than 7 community agencies, social workers and numerous interns and volunteers with one over-arching mission—to serve and assist our participants in achieving self-sufficiency.

KTH SUCCESS STORIES

With this community-driven team oriented approach, we have already seen wonderful success. Mike, a participant who has been volunteering with KTH from the start, received his first official check from Experience Works this month. Experience Works is a paid job training program for individuals over the age of 55. Mike hadn't had a paycheck since January 2013, and said that he was very appreciative of the assistance he got from KTH in getting connected to the Experience Works program. KTH has acted as a host agency for Mike's job training, and Mike has been dedicated to helping us maintain the cleanliness of our facility and has played a key role in familiarizing new participants with our shower and laundry amenities.



Mike with his first check!

Russell is another participant who has really taken off. Russell hasn't had steady work since 2007 and just recently started his job training program through Experience Works at Bridge Transition Housing, doing custodial work. Russell stated that he really appreciates being able to use the shower and laundry

62 participants, 745 visits, and 679 total uses of our shower, computer and laundry amenities

amenities and that KTH helped "get the ball rolling" for his opportunity with Experience Works. On top of this, KTH and Covering Kids and Families helped R get signed up for health insurance and made sure his power account has been covered for one full year.

KTH couldn't be more pleased with the support from our partners and volunteers from the community.



To learn more about Key's to Hope Community Resource Center's new director Lesley Saliga, visit www.citizens4homeless.org



Purdue Extension was once again busy serving CCH, this time in the form of curtains. These ladies have long been a blessing. We are thankful.



On April 23rd, Keys to Hope hosted Home Team, a collaboration centered on ending homelessness in La Porte County. CCH has been a long time member and was pleased to receive many much desired items such as paper goods, laundry soap, and coffee.