



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

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc. Winter 2015

WHAT WE'VE DONE LATELY

Organizational Insight

CCH has been fortunate enough to attend quite a few leadership and community-focused trainings within the past 4 months. In those trainings, we have gotten to sit with organizations across La Porte County and neighboring counties and as a team begin deep, fruitful work. These wonderful opportunities have allowed us to look at the work we have been doing and how we plan to tackle the future with energized effort and focused zeal.

A few funders have called on us to take on leadership roles in the community, and we have taken that call very seriously; each of our three programs: Sand Castle Shelter, Grace Learning Center, and Keys to Hope CRC are working even harder to make sure we are the change we want to see.

In the program pages to follow, we hope you see your investment in action. As we expand and do community good, we have still have daily needs in the form of laundry soap, paper goods- from printing paper to toilet paper to paper towels. Keys to Hope and Grace Learning Center also like to provide coffee to clients to help establish an inviting atmosphere. Would you consider joining up with a few friends to do a coffee drive for us? We also have increased financial obligations due increased opportunities for more of La Porte County's lowest income earners to use our programs to step out of homelessness and poverty. As you close out your year, please consider a contribution to Citizens Concerned for the Homeless.

CCH could not be prouder of our donor base. We have over **325 active donors** and appreciate that you consider our work to eliminate homelessness worthy of your gift. You are what fuels us and holds us together. If we have not thanked you enough, THANK YOU. If we have thanked you lately, THANK YOU again.

We are so happy and honored to being doing the work you graciously support. If this newsletter leaves you wanting to know more, please visit our website: www.citizens4homeless.org or one of our Facebook pages for the most up-to-date details.

Thanks!
- CCH

Fundraisers

Epic Shopping Cart Walk Photos



SCS's director walks with one of our youngest advocates.

Grace Learning Center's Shopping Cart



Keys to Hope participants getting into the spirit.



Building Community Awareness

From interviews on local radio & television, to speaking at churches, clubs, organizations, women's groups, civic and county meetings, our directors have completed over 22 live face to face presentations this past quarter.

If you would like to have CCH at your meeting, use the contact information on the last page, and we'd love to come share about our inner workings and passion in more detail.

Sand Castle Shelter

by Jim Musial

BETTER PARENTING THROUGH COORDINATED ACCESS

Sand Castle Shelter is proud to announce their newest program to balance the parenting piece of the residents program with the primary focus remaining on jobs and housing. This new collaboration driven program will involve Dunebrook (Family Services) and Women's Care Center ("WCC"). WCC offers a six part Healthy Pregnancy Class Series and a six- part Newborn Care Class Series. The classes and workshops offered by Dunebrook include Nurturing Parenting Programs, Stewards of Children (adult training), and Body Safety (child presentation).

As part of this affiliation, programs offered at Sand Castle Shelter will be available to Dunebrook and WCC clients, including Smoking Cessation, and Healthy Living and Wellness classes. In development discussions with Dunebrook, WCC, and Sand Castle, classes will be offered on-site at the host provider, but special workshops and classes may be made available to be mobile to multiple locations.

Coordinated Access at its intended best will result in maximum use of these three organizations and their programs, sharing information and tools with each other for the benefit of the client. The intent is more than referral, it is integration. Coordinated Access is trending in the state and the local Continuum of Care, and its intended purpose is to reduce duplication of services and to maximize existing, established programs.

SCS FAST FACT

In our fiscal year just ended, nearly 80% of SCS residents graduated to permanent housing and nearly 70 increased their income while at SCS



2nd Annual Tin Cup Golf Outing participants enjoying food donated from food and beverage sponsors Swingbelly's Great Food and Spirits, Scarzotti's Trattoria, Al's, Carlson's Drive-In, Meijer's, Three Sheets Bar, Knuckleheads, Top Doq, McDonalds and KFC.

TIN CUP

The 2015 Tin Cup Golf Outing is now in the books. On August 9, the Second Annual Tin Cup Golf Outing, organized by the conductors and employees of the South Shore Railroad and Sand Castle Shelter, was held at the beautiful Legacy Hills Golf Course in La Porte. It was a glorious day filled with friends, fun and laughter for the benefit of Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families and Citizens Concerned for the Homeless. On this day we celebrated our mission and gave thanks for our wonderful community partners who are critical to the existence and operation of our organization. Food and beverage sponsors listed in the above photo description provided wonderful food and drinks for well over 100 golfers and volunteers. Event and Hole Sponsors included Von Tobel Lumber, Captain Ed's, Duneland Fine Homes, Austin Masonry, Kent Heating and A/C, DeVries Firestone, Parkison and Hinton, Horizon Trust & Investment Management, Unity Foundation of La Porte County, United Way of La Porte County, Exchange Club of Michigan City, Blue Chip, Pella Windows, Richards Building Supplies, Rachel Dawn Photographer, Amereco Engineering, and Tonn & Blank, and Attorneys Hoey & Farina. Also thanks to the dozens of local businesses who donated prizes and other contributions to make this event a very special one. A very special thank you and shout out to Elissa Affeld

who acted as our event photographer and all of the other men and women who volunteered to help cook, set up and clean up, we love you all. But most of all TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY who joined us to celebrate our programs and our mission.

FAMILY SUCCESS STORIES

"A" enrolled at Sand Castle with her three children. Working full time, she saved money through our 75% net savings program. Within 40 days, she found a new home and with her savings and assistance of Catholic Charities, she had enough to secure a lease and have enough in reserve for at least three months. She secured school uniforms for her three children (McKinney-Vento grant) and back packs and school supplies (Sherri Newman, St. Anthony's Pediatrics Department).

"G", a single mom who enrolled with her 4 children. She attended SCS classes but her main points of focus was finding her next home. She secured full time employment almost immediately and within two weeks, she found her new place, affordable, clean and price range friendly.



A few of the golfers at one of the tees.

Grace Learning Center

by Kristen Patterson

CLIENTS AS VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to some very great books and seminars, GLC has been encouraged to train up clients and let them take ownership at GLC as much as possible.

A wonderful volunteer and mentor, Rebecca, helped GLC start a volunteer handbook. Rebecca and two other volunteers (Chuck and Dianna) worked very hard on a packet that gave overview and expectations.

After that, interns Vanessa and Jami took over by calling invested and regularly participating clients to ask them if they would like to give GLC a hand by helping rake leaves, clean bathrooms, and answer phones in the afternoon. The response has been wonderful. Orientations are happened and clients are now volunteering regularly at GLC.

The idea is that everyone can help. Everyone has something they can give. Why not let them? GLC, and all of CCH's programs were designed with clients in mind. This way GLC gets some much needed help, clients to have ownership, clients get training and experience they can put on resumes, and our community is better.



ECONOMIC STABILITY

GLC hosts a number of classes every month to boost economic stability.

One of the local banks regularly teaches both budgeting and banking basics to clients- many shelter residents and Keys to Hope participants.

On top of those classes, GLC has added a financial mentor to the mix. This mentor is an ex-manager of a bank, and was in the financial business world for 28 years. She meets one on one with interested clients, helping them to make and meet their financial goals.

Getting Ahead is another new program for GLC. A community partner agency asked GLC's director to facilitate this program, which is 16 sessions long and 3 hours a session. There were 11 participants in the class, who are called "investigators". These investigators are La Porte County residents who are living at or below the poverty levels and are at risk for homelessness.

In class, investigators were presented with statistics and facts, some of which are included to the right.

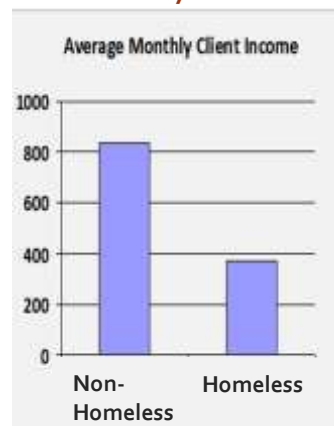
United Way's Women's Leadership Council was instrumental in bringing this program to our county.

Poverty in La Porte County

ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

Poverty 7,014 HH 16%	ALICE 9,074 HH 21%	ALICE 27,380 HH 63%
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At GLC, Average Client Monthly Income



GLC FAST FACT

Job Preparation and Retention

77%

77% of the month-long Job Preparation and Retention participants have obtained and retained employment since October of 2013

LATEST UPDATE

Keys to Hope CRC

by Lesley Saliga

Keysto Hope CRC is gearing up for the winter months ahead.

We will be serving the community at our regular capacity and also as a warming center for Michigan City (details to be announced). KTH has been open for nearly 8 months. It has proved to both be very challenging, and yet remarkably rewarding. We have helped house 21 people and over 30 participants have obtained and/or retained jobs with assistance from KTH.

From April to date, we have had a total foot traffic of 6,471 people (repeat and first time visitors) with an average of just over 33 daily visits. We have officially enrolled 194 people (151 homeless and 43 at risk of homelessness), and we have helped refer many other members of the community to various local resources. We anticipate enrolling in excess of 200 for the year.

In addition to case management, Keys to Hope has provided 2,926 showers, 1617 uses of the laundry units, 176 haircuts and 2564 uses of the computer with internet access.

We have provided 80 class sessions with 586 participants, which is an average of just over 7 participants per class. The HOPE class led by Michelle Alexander has been a favorite with 334 total attendees. Michelle Alexander also led the production of the Songs of Giving Hearts concert at Notre Dame Church on November 15th. It was a lovely production and 4 of our KTH participants sang in the concert.

OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE OUT AND ABOUT DOING GOOD

Participants are also continuing to volunteer in the community with organizations such as A Hand UP, Barker Mansion and other local agencies. Although much has been achieved in the short time that we have been open, KTH is looking to do more and to continue to collaborate with community partners in the effort to eradicate homelessness in La Porte County. We are truly grateful for the support of the community!



One of the many KTH participants helping to organize furniture for a community partner.

KTH FAST FACT

Tonn & Blank played a **BIG** part in the construction of Keys to Hope. We would like to again thank them for not only building a facility for us, but for keeping down costs and constructing a wonderful, quality facility for La Porte County.

Thanks again for partnering with us; please have a safe and happy holiday season!



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?

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Kristen Patterson, Director

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center

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Lesley Saliga, Director

For more information and the latest news, check out: www.citizens4homeless.org

Or, even better, "Like" our pages on Facebook!

