

CANI

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

Chronicles

Outgoing Executive Director: “CANI Has Bright Future Ahead”

As I prepare to leave my post as Executive Director, I can't help but feel optimistic. The future is in the hands of competent and qualified staff who genuinely care about their fellow man. What more could I ask for?

In the past year alone, the agency has enjoyed more changes than some other organizations would undergo in a decade. The number of new staff hired alone is truly remarkable. Since March 2009, the agency has hired 45 new staff and created 11 new positions. That means we can reach out to more people in need.

The pace is fast, here, and that's a good thing! If you read the

Jan./Feb. issue you already know about a few of our projects that came to fruition in 2009. At CANI, folks are eager to get things done. Projects like the youth program and Early Head Start, just to name a few. More programs and services are in the works for 2010, and we will be sure to keep you abreast through newsletter stories and other resources.

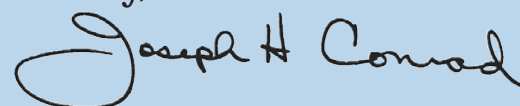
While I do not know who my successor will be, I am confident that he or she will continue to move the organization forward. If you have any input for the board of directors and the new leadership, please feel free to speak your voice. At CANI, we're deeply rooted in the com-

munity and value civic involvement.

Last, I would like to emphasize that although I will no longer be in a leadership role, I will still be involved with the agency in some form. I care too much about this organization to simply walk away.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can do great things.

Sincerely,



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March - 2010

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(260) 399-4109.

Have you heard?
CANI has a blog.
Check it out here:

www.insidecani.blogspot.com

CANI Mission

CANI helps communities, families, and individuals remove the causes and conditions of poverty.

CANI Partners



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CANI Offices

Allen

227 E Washington Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

**423-3546 or
800-589-2264**

DeKalb

209 N Jackson St.
Auburn, IN 46706

927-0162

LaGrange

109 E Central Ave, Ste 4
LaGrange, IN 46761

463-5276

Noble

119 W Mitchell St.
Kendallville, IN 46755

349-0713

Steuben

1208 S Wayne St.
Angola, IN 46703

665-1160

Whitley

Lehmberg Medical Bldg
333 N Oak St, Ste K
Columbia City, IN 46725

248-2848

The following offices only provide childcare assistance...

Elkhart

421 S 2nd St, Ste 420
Elkhart, IN 46516

574-293-3460

Kosciusko

1515 Provident Drive
Warsaw, IN 46580

574-267-2817

CANI Management Team

Joseph H. Conrad **Executive Director**

Pamela Brookshire **Director of Community Services**

Mary Lee Freeze **Head Start Director**

Steve Hoffman **Director of Administration and Development**

CANI Hours of Operation

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Friday

AN EARLIER START

Studies indicate the earlier you reach out to a child, the greater the impact later in life. The Head Start program at CANI focuses on children ages 3-5, but child development actually begins even before a baby is born.

Thanks to a program called Early Head Start, CANI will be able to reach out to low-income expectant mothers and their infant children up to age three.

CANI applied for and was awarded a \$1.1 million-grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to offer Early Head Start. Beginning June 1, the funding will allow for 72 families to receive services in Whitley, Noble, and Allen counties.

Six case workers (one each in Whitley and Noble counties and four in Allen County) will work with twelve families each. The emphasis will be on developing education, housing and parenting skills. For pregnant women, the focus will be on maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

The program calls for one home visit a week and two socializations a month.

According to CANI Head Start Director Mary Lee Freeze, Early Head Start is complementary to Head Start because case workers can have an impact earlier in life.



Stock Photo
Early Head Start helps children transition more smoothly into preschool.

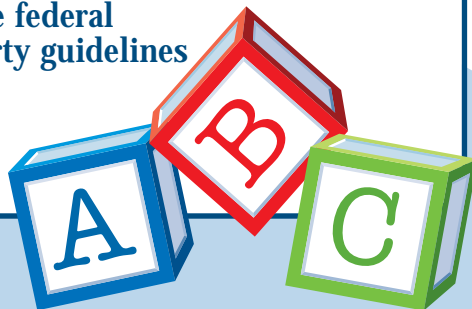
“The hope is (the children) will transition to Head Start once they are eligible,” she said. “Head Start is charged to have children ready for kindergarten, so Early Head Start is just an extension of that.”

Early Head Start requires the same income guidelines as Head Start; families must be at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The majority of families will be referred through CANI Head Start, but anyone interested can call the Head Start Administrative Office, (260) 420-2833 to inquire.

For more information about Early Head Start, visit www.ehsnrc.org.

EARLY HEAD START AT A GLANCE

- 72 slots total available in Allen, Noble and Whitley Counties
- 6 case workers employed
- Open to families at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines



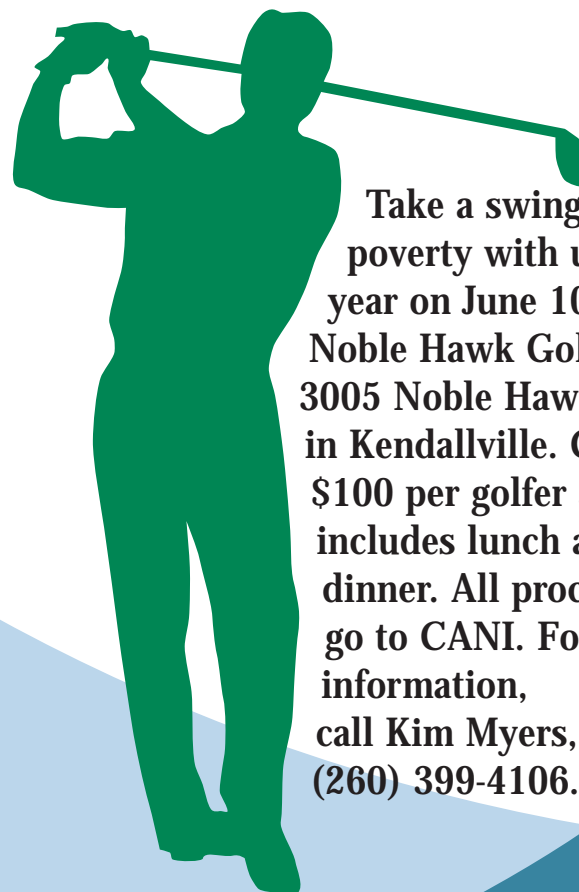
Note: The funding for Early Head Start is part of \$2.1 billion nationally made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.



SAVE THE DATE

June 10 • Noble Hawk Golf Links

CANI Golf 2010



Take a swing at poverty with us this year on June 10 at Noble Hawk Golf Links, 3005 Noble Hawk Drive in Kendallville. Cost is \$100 per golfer and includes lunch and dinner. All proceeds go to CANI. For more information, call Kim Myers, (260) 399-4106.

Have you heard?
CANI has a blog.
Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com

“A HAND UP”

Angie Freiburger, 33, has a loving husband, beautiful family and good job. But that wasn't always the case.

About ten years ago, she faced an unplanned pregnancy. To make matters worse, the father did not want any part of her life. With twins on the way and a minimum wage job at a gas station, Angie was desperate to find help. That help came in the form of childcare vouchers, assistance paying utility bills, and one-on-one parent mentoring through programs at CANI.

After the twins were born, Angie went back to school to pursue a nursing degree. Having help paying for childcare and energy costs allowed her to concentrate on getting an education.

Along the way, she discovered Healthy Families, a voluntary home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children.*

Looking back, Angie remembers her case worker Cathy and all the help she provided. The program left a lasting impression on Angie. In fact, she still has some of the books Cathy gave her.



Photo Contributed

The Frieburgers pose for a family photo. Angie met her husband Todd when her twins were two years old. They now have a two-year old son together, Trey.



Photo Contributed

Angie and Amber have been friends through thick and thin.

was a hand up, not hand out.”

Angie said her experiences with CANI staff were positive:

“Everyone was good to me,” she said. “I didn't feel the stigma of poverty...it

“I have always thought to myself how much of an inspiration she has been for her friends and family... that she could turn her life around and accomplish everything she has while raising two children,” she said. “She is one of the strongest women I know and I truly value her as a person and as a dear friend.”

There's something to be said for perseverance. According to Amber, Angie did whatever she could do to make a good life for her and her family.

Angie lives in Fort Wayne with her husband Todd and sons Jesse, Jerrad and Trey.

*Funding cutbacks in 2009 forced the Healthy Families collaborative to consolidate home-based services under SCAN.

“Everyone was good to me,” she said. “I didn't feel the stigma of poverty...it was a hand up, not a hand out.”
- Angie Freiburger

“I feel like during the time you're doing it...getting through... it feels like it's never going to end,” she said. “But it's worth it. Being able to take care of yourself is priceless.”

If there's one person who has seen Angie come full circle it's Amber Tanesky (CANI's Quality Assurance & Support Specialist). Friends since childhood, the two have been “through everything under the sun.”

It's clear Amber admires her friend's achievements:



Photo By Lauren Caggiano, Development Coordinator

CANI participated in the Arts United Community Mosaic project. The canvas is on display in the Arts United Center until April 10.

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Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com

CANI Head Start Annual Report



Mission Statement



Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (CANI) Head Start is an organization of site managed family care centers dedicated to providing a strong foundation and nurturing environment for children and families through a comprehensive program of early childhood education and family support services, resulting in increased self-sufficiency for families.

Program Goals



A major goal of the Head Start Program is to bring about a greater degree of social competence in children. Social competence means the children's everyday effectiveness in dealing with both the present environment and later responsibilities in school life. Social competence takes into account the child's cognitive, emotional and physical needs.

To accomplish this goal, our program provides:

- Educational services for children and their families
- Medical services and health education
- Dental services and dental education
- Mental Health services
- Nutrition services and nutrition education
- Family partnerships
- Parent involvement

-continued on page: 4

REVENUES/EXPENDITURES

These reported expenditures and revenue were in with our 2008-2009 budget* and supported our goals and objectives. We will propose the budget for Fiscal Year 2011 in June.

A few notes:

Child Care Vouchers are included as revenue/expenditures because two classrooms at the Hanna-Creighton site operate as full-day/full-year programs.



The Fort Wayne Literacy Alliance is listed as a source of revenue/expenditures because we have a partnership with the organization for literacy services. The Literacy Alliance pays approximately half of the cost towards the salary and benefits for a Family Advocate. The Family Advocate facilitates enrollment across our program and participates in twice weekly night meetings for parents who are working on getting their GED.

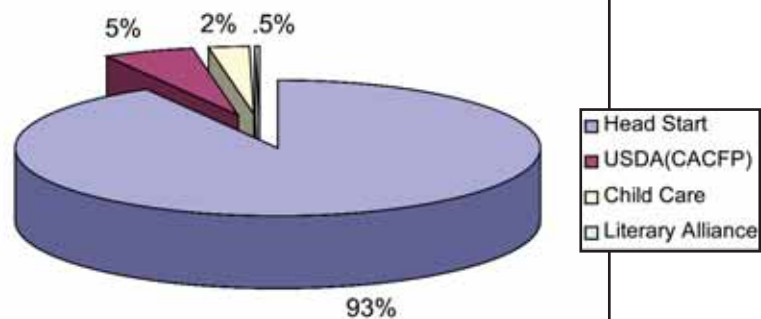
We propose a budget and we are held to that budget. The fiscal year is Nov. 1 through Oct. 31 each year. We will propose the budget for Fiscal Year 2011 by June 2010.

*Figures are based on the period from 11/01/08 to 10/31/09.

CANI Head Start Revenues 2008-2009

Head Start	4,479,750.00
USDA(CACFP)	267,151.53
Child Care	119,763.08
Literary Alliance	13,600
Total	4,880,264.61

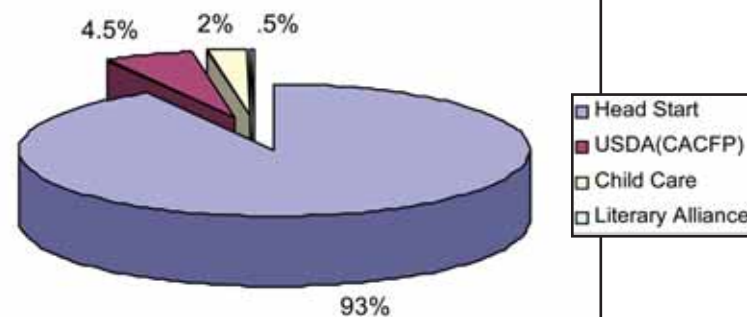
CANI Head Start Revenues 2008-2009



CANI Head Start Expenditures 2008-2009

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USDA(CACFP)	267,151.53
Child Care	119,763.08
Literary Alliance	13,600
Total	4,880,264.61

CANI Head Start Expenditures 2008-2009



ENROLLMENT

We serve families in Allen, Noble and Whitley counties. Here is the breakdown of the enrollment by site:

Allen County Sites:

- Hanna-Creighton: 140 part day children, plus 36 full-day/full-year children
- St. Henry's Catholic Church: 101 children
- Grace St. John's Church of Christ: 56 children
- Salvation Army: 118 children
- Ivy Tech: 34 children
- Achduth Vesholm Temple: 80 children, plus 12 in Bowen Center staffed classroom
- Children's Cottage: 18 full-day/full-year children

Noble County Sites:

- First Presbyterian Church, Kendallville: 30 children plus 10 in Bowen Center staffed classroom.
- Ligonier United Methodist Church: 34 children

Whitley County Site:

- Marshall Community Center: 34 children

*Figures are based on the period from 11/01/08 to 10/31/09.

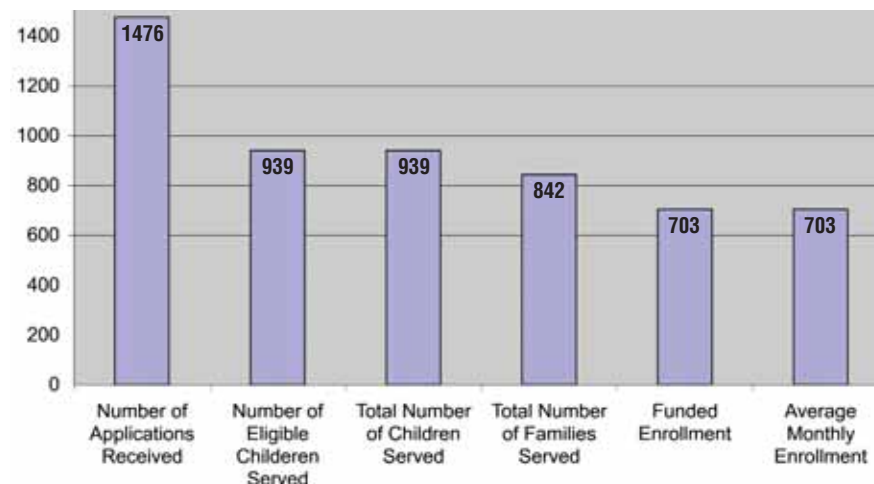


CANI Head Start Enrollment 2008-2009*

Total Number of Families Served	842
Total Number of Children Served	939
Funded Enrollment	703
Average Monthly Enrollment	703
Number of Applications Received	1476
Number of Eligible Children Served	939

* Enrollment figures are based on program year 9/08-8/09.

CANI Head Start Enrollment 2008-2009



MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE

Renee Schiebel, Registered Nurse, serves as CANI Head Start's Health Coordinator and her position is funded by the Community Health Improvement Programs at Parkview, Parkview Noble, and Parkview Whitley Hospitals.

We are charged to help families get medical/dental home. Renee works with Family Advocates to ensure children are on schedule with immunizations and current with physical exams. Families are encouraged to use family physicians and dentists as much as possible. When this hasn't happened then Renee assists in finding other avenues to get exams done.

Renee facilitates vision and hearing screenings and provides parents with information and resources about relevant health topics, such as proper hygiene, dental care, nutrition and poison prevention.



continued from Annual Report cover

Education

Education services in the CANI Head Start program are enhanced through a partnership with the United Way of Allen county and Fort Wayne Community Schools. Each child transitioning to kindergarten takes with them a "Passport to Kindergarten" which provides specific individual information for the kindergarten teacher who will receive them in the fall. Additionally, "Off To A Good Start" sessions are held for parents that help them know what to expect and how to best help their child transition to kindergarten.

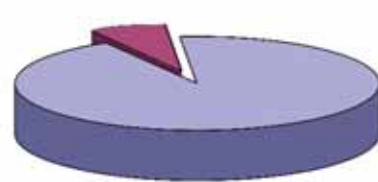
Family Services

Family services in the CANI Head Start program work with Head Start parents to establish goals to help the family become stable with the ultimate goal of family self-sufficiency. Family services also work with families to gain new skills through involvement in parent activities, organizing events and joining committees in the community. Additionally, family services staff work with parents with the intention of improving their self advocacy skills in order for them to become comfortable advocating for themselves and their families. Finally, family services staff remain abreast of the resources available in the community to assist with crisis prevention and management for the Head Start families.

CANI Head Start Enrollment 2008-2009*

Number of Dental Screenings Completed	880
Head Start total	939
Number of Physicals Completed	855
Head Start total	939

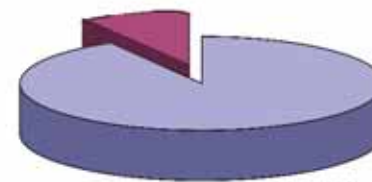
CANI Head Start Medical Care 2008-2009



91% (855)

■ Number of Physicals Completed

CANI Head Start Dental Care 2008-2009



94% (880)

■ Number of Dental Screenings Completed

FORT WAYNE WOMAN FEELS THE WARMTH

Last spring, Gerri Mann was in a situation many senior citizens or people on a fixed income face. After paying for the basic necessities, there wasn't much left over. The main culprit: \$200+ gas bills from an old furnace in her mobile home.



Photo By Lauren Caggiano, Development Coordinator
Gerri Mann has lived in her mobile home for 33 years, where she raised four children.

"Nobody (else) had a bill like that," she said about the disparity between her bills and her neighbors.

That's when her daughter stepped in and called CANI. Gerri's home was put on the schedule and by July she had a crew in her home. Through the Weatherization program Gerri received a new energy efficient furnace. The crew also insulated the entire underbody of her trailer, cleaned out the vents, installed a new exhaust fan and replaced light bulbs with more energy efficient ones.

Gerri said she has already seen an improvement over last winter: her gas bill went down from about \$200 to \$66.

"It's working....thank heavens," she said about the energy-saving improvements.

Some people are wary about letting strangers into their homes, but Gerri said she felt very comfortable in the presence of the

inspectors and contractors.

"Everybody that was here was as nice as can be," she said. "They even worked in the rain."

Now, as a result of CANI's work, Gerri has a better quality of

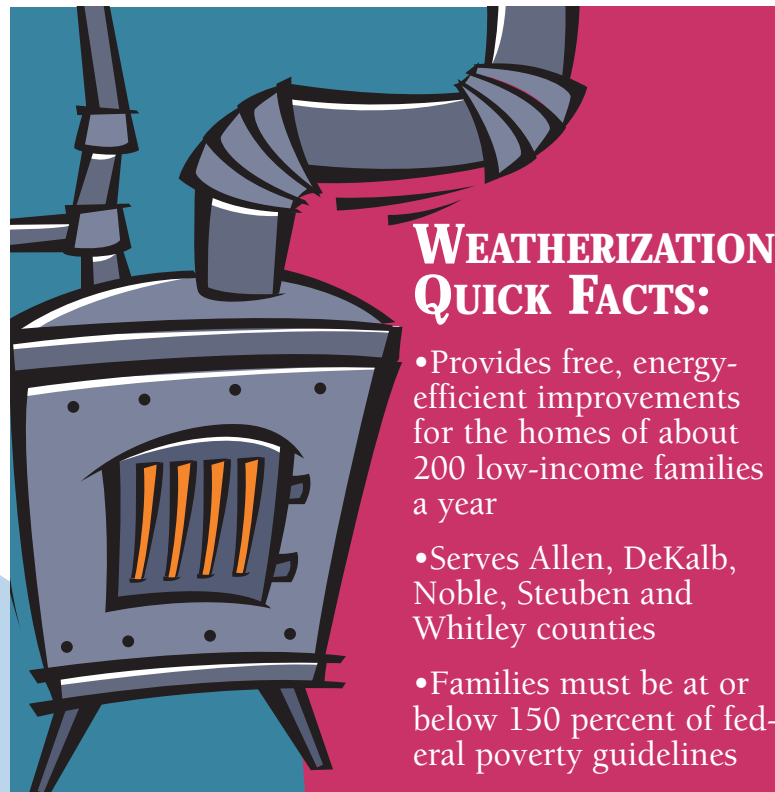
life. She said the temperature is "pretty comfortable" in the mobile home and she doesn't have to worry about high bills.

The retired legal assistant encourages people to seek help. A very independent woman, she was at first reluctant to ask. However, as she learned, sometimes it's a matter of leaving your ego at the door.

In her words, "Don't be embarrassed especially if you're elderly because it's not embarrassing when (the crew) comes. They were all helpful."

In her spare time, Gerri enjoys going out to dinner with friends, playing cards and computer games and of course, doting on her grandchildren when she can.

"... her gas bill went down from about \$200 to \$66."



WEATHERIZATION QUICK FACTS:

- Provides free, energy-efficient improvements for the homes of about 200 low-income families a year
- Serves Allen, DeKalb, Noble, Steuben and Whitley counties
- Families must be at or below 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines

Have you heard?
CANI has a blog.
Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com

CANI YOUTH PROGRAM: SKILLS FOR LIFE

Since children are the future, investing in them is important in the fight against poverty. With the right guidance and support systems, a child has a greater chance of succeeding later in life.



Stock Photo

The WHO CANI BE shadow day is a great way for young people to explore possible careers.

A new youth program was started in 2009 with the goal of engaging and empowering young people. The long-term goal is to help youth successfully transition from school to adulthood. CANI has found that many of the causes of poverty, such as lack of postsecondary education and single parenthood, can be prevented if teens are provided key resources during their formative years.

CANI plans to expand the program through peer mentoring, cultural experiences, a resource center, college preparation, workshops and professional development. Currently, the program has been focused on vocational exploration, with a career shadow day for middle school students. This year following completion of the session, participants will be eligible for CANI's youth IDA pro

gram, which helps fund college expenses.

Youth Program Coordinator Megan Kinney is hard at work preparing for the career shadow session scheduled for this summer. Thirty students will have the opportunity to explore a possible career

for a few hours. (Last year, eight students participated.)

Megan hopes this experience will be life changing. She views the program as an opportunity for career exploration, based on talents, skills, interests and values.

"I want to help these kids see the connection between what they are learning now in school and real life skills they will need (later in life)," she said.

Although much will remain the same as the pilot program that was started last year, a few new things have been added. First, the orientation will be changed drastically, with a "real world" reality check activity. And after the shadow session, the participants will be provided with a script they can use in the future if they want to shadow again.

For more information about the youth program, or to refer a student, contact Megan Kinney at megankinney@canihelp.org, or call (260) 423-3546, ext. 287.

"Thank you very much for your time and assistance today. I had felt I was nearing the bottom of the barrel. Your assistance has given me a renewed attitude and assurance that there is a very good reason to try harder. CANI will be on the top of my contribution in the future."
-Anonymous Client

(To Family Services Manager Marianne Stanley)

HOME OWNERSHIP: FROM DREAM TO REALITY

CANI is proud to announce a new program that will make the dream of home ownership come true for families in our service area.

In simple terms, CANI will purchase, rehabilitate and resell homes to qualifying families in the counties we serve. The goal is to make attractive homes available to families and support the stability of neighborhoods. Home buyer education will be provided to guide potential home buyers through the process. CANI will hire local contractors to remodel the homes prior to the buyers moving in.

CANI will market the homes to interested families for purchase at a price below market value. The selected homes will be three or more bedrooms, approximately 1,200 square feet and centrally located near everyday conveniences.

Initially, CANI will concentrate its efforts in DeKalb, Noble and Whitley counties. The agency intends to purchase and rehabilitate two homes by the end of July.

To qualify, families must desire to purchase a home in one of the three counties, meet income guidelines, and obtain financing from a lending institution.

For more information, contact Barb Cayce, (260) 423-3546 ext. 257.

Applications are now being accepted. Call today!

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Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com**

TRINE STUDENT GIVES BACK

It's refreshing when community members want to give back unprompted, especially when it's a young person.

In this case, a young man hopes to raise money for CANI through an upcoming basketball tournament that he has planned. For Trine University student Deven Billingslea, the project's mission is two-fold: an educational exercise, as well as a way to give back.

The story began when Deven, who is studying public relations at Trine, was considering possibilities for his senior internship project. His primary goal was that the project would benefit the community.

After doing some research about non-profits in the area, he came across CANI's office in Angola. Prior to this project, Deven said he was not familiar with CANI. He said most students at Trine University are not only unacquainted with organizations like CANI, but they are also unaware of the

existence of poverty in Steuben County. Angola may be a small town, but that does not mean poverty does not exist. Deven said through this project, he hopes to bring poverty issues to the forefront of people's minds.

As for the event itself, Deven has in mind a friendly competition between students and coaches. Co-ed teams of basketball players and their non-athlete peers will face off against a team of coaches. Deven hopes to raise a minimum of \$500 for the cause from ticket sales. (A \$1 donation is suggested to attend.) Additionally, he plans to ask businesses for pledges to raise more money.

Deven hopes to raise awareness through word-of-mouth and media attention. Publicity is an important part of the project, since it's an event planning assignment. Most of all, he hopes the event will generate a lot of buzz for CANI.

"Trine (students) should give back because it's the community we live in and support," he said. "Students need to look outside campus and see that people don't live the same lifestyle."

When: March 17, 2010 @ 7 p.m.

Where: Angola, Indiana

@ Trine University

Heshey Hall Main Floor

Contact: Deven Billingslea

@(269) 924-6767

CANI Thanks Our Donors

We'd like to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that have recently supported CANI. Your financial gifts and in-kind contributions help us fight poverty and build hope - thank you for all you do!

January/February 2010

Ambassador (\$500-\$999)

Pamela E. Brookshire

Advocate (\$100-\$249)

Ms. Sherry Early-Aden

Mr. Todd Fleetwood

Ms. Dawn Gallaway

Norm and Ronnie Greenberg

Hall's Guest House

Friend (\$1-\$99)

Audiences Unlimited

Mrs. Christianne Caggiano

Cripe Chiropractic Clinic

Mr. Tony Jeffers and Ms. Beth Conway

Robert and Sandra Lemon

Mr. James E. Shriner

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you heard?**

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Area Partnership Ends

According to a letter CANI received from Hall's Restaurants, due to the weak economy, declining usage and rising administrative costs, the Hall's Community Partnership program has been discontinued, effective Feb. 1. We would like to thank all of you who used the Partnership program to support CANI. And thank you to Hall's for their donations to our community!



Photo By Joy Kitter, Center Supervisor

The Mad Ants' mascot, "The Mad Ant" visited the Head Start site at the Salvation Army. He was a big hit with children and staff.

CANI Fighting Poverty.
 Building Hope.
 COMMUNITY ACTION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA
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 Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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Yes, I would like to give to CANI so I can help fight poverty and build hope!

Name _____ Phone number _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Email address _____

Please write amount of your donation on the appropriate line. I want to be a:

_____ Hero (\$10,000 +) _____ Guardian (\$250 - \$499) _____ Visionary (\$1,000 - \$9,999)
 _____ Advocate (\$100 - \$249) _____ Ambassador (\$500 - \$999) _____ Friend (\$1 - \$99)

Your name will be published in CANI's annual report and newsletters.

Thank You

CANI Fighting Poverty.
 Building Hope.
 COMMUNITY ACTION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

Please mail this completed form to:

CANI
PO Box 10570
Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570

Or you may donate online at www.canihelp.org.

And remember, your gift is tax-deductible.