

# CANI

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

## Chronicles

## CANI Touts Community Action Month Events



May is National Community Action Month and CANI is proud to celebrate with various activities.

National Community Action Month was created by the Community Action Partnership to recognize the role Community Action Agencies (CAAs) play in helping low-income families achieve economic stability. During the month of May, CAAs around the country truly make the Promise of Community Action come alive by hosting events that help put a "face" on families living in poverty and highlight the dedication of individuals and organizations that are helping them escape it.

During the month, success stories are honored and personal achievements are recognized. Some governors and mayors even proclaim May "Community Action Month" in their states and cities. Community Action Agencies also use National Community Action Month to call attention to poverty-related issues.

In honor of this special month, CANI has various activities planned. On May 4th, CANI will host the annual CANI RECAP. This event

will highlight the past year's accomplishments and introduce plans for the year ahead. We will give out awards and Mayor Tom Henry will present a proclamation to commemorate Community Action Month.

On May 20, CANI will offer a new experience: the Community Action Poverty Simulation. The goal of this event is to expose people to the realities of living in poverty. (See page 11 for more information.)

CANI will be featured at the Fort Wayne TinCaps game on May 21. CANI board members, staff, and their families will be there to cheer on the team. Join us for a fun night and check out the CANI booth. The game starts at 7:05 pm and fireworks will follow.

Then on Thursday, June 10 – it's the eighth annual CANI Golf. Take a swing at poverty and enjoy a day of golf, food, fun, and prizes. (See the ad on page 11.)

For more information on National Community Action Month and the Community Action Partnership, go to [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com).

## Community Action Promise

*Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

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Lauren Caggiano, unless otherwise noted.  
Subscriptions are free. For more information call (260) 399-4109.

Have  
you heard?  
CANI has a blog.  
Check it out here:  
[www.insidecani.blogspot.com](http://www.insidecani.blogspot.com)

## CANI Mission

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

## CANI Board of Directors

Mr. Robert Lee - **President**

Mr. Todd Fleetwood - **Vice-President**

Mr. Tony Jeffers - **Secretary/Treasurer**

Mr. Chip Adams, Ms. Karma Austin, Ms. Laura Dwire, Ms. Dawn Gallaway, Ms. Ronnie Greenberg, Ms. Jean Hershberger, Mr. Randy Holler, Ms. Joy Klug, Mr. Karl Kostoff, Ms. Amy Lazoff, Mr. Robert Myers II, Ms. Zenovia Pearson

## CANI Management Team

Steve Hoffman **Executive Director**

Pamela Brookshire **Director of Community Services**

Mary Lee Freeze **Head Start Director**

## 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

Lehmborg 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 Hours of Operation

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

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

**CANI WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 24 IN  
OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.**



A large, stylized graphic on the left side of the page depicts two hands, one in a lighter purple and one in a darker purple, cupping a globe. The globe is composed of several curved, overlapping bands. The background of the entire page is a gradient from light blue at the top to dark blue at the bottom, with faint, larger-scale versions of the hands-and-globe graphic.

# CANI HELPED MORE THAN 32,000 PEOPLE IN 2009

Annual Report 2009

**CANI** *Fighting Poverty.  
Building Hope.*

COMMUNITY ACTION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

A decorative border at the bottom of the page, consisting of two horizontal rows of small, repeating geometric patterns in white and purple.

# 2009 Donors

## CANI Thanks Our Donors

We'd like to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that have supported CANI in 2009. Your financial gifts and in-kind contributions help us fight poverty and build hope - thank you for all you do!

### **Hero (\$10,000+)**

Lincoln Financial Foundation  
Parkview Hospital Community Health  
Improvement Program  
United Way of Allen County

### **Visionary (\$1,000-\$9,999)**

Anonymous  
Pamela E. Brookshire  
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Community Initiatives - The Supporting  
Organization of the Noble County  
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D. Rogers Weatherization  
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Keller Development, Inc.  
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Health Improvement Program  
Parkview Whitley Hospital Community  
Health Improvement Program  
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Target  
United Way of Whitley County

### **Ambassador (\$500-\$999)**

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TriState Bolt Company  
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### **Guardian (\$250-\$499)**

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Ms. Lesa J Cassel  
D.O. McComb & Sons Family  
Foundation, Inc.  
Larry and Margaret Edgington  
Mr. Todd Fleetwood  
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Gasoline Equipment Service Co., Inc.  
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Richard and Susan Hall  
Miss Kristi Harkenrider  
Mr. Randy Holler  
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Ms. Marilyn V. Manzer  
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Sam and Darlene Starbuck  
Starn Heating & Air Conditioning  
Mr. Michael Strzelecki  
Terry's Heating & Air Conditioning  
WallScott Solutions  
Mr. Justin West

### **Friend (\$1-\$99)**

Anonymous  
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Mr. H. E. Bishton  
Ms. Phyllis A. Borg  
Lisa A Boyer  
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CCI Commercial Contractors, Inc.  
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Mr. John A. Cox  
Ms. Mary Cox  
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn & Kelly  
Cumberland

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Ms. Sally Edington  
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Pastor Dick Frazier  
Ms. Mary Lee Freeze  
Gary and Debra Garman  
Gingerbread House  
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Mr. Eric Record  
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Mr. Mark Scovel  
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United Oil Corp  
Votaw Electric  
Dr. Wayne D Walker, DDS  
Mrs. Margaret Walter

**For our In Kind Donors please see page 5.**

# 2009 Financials

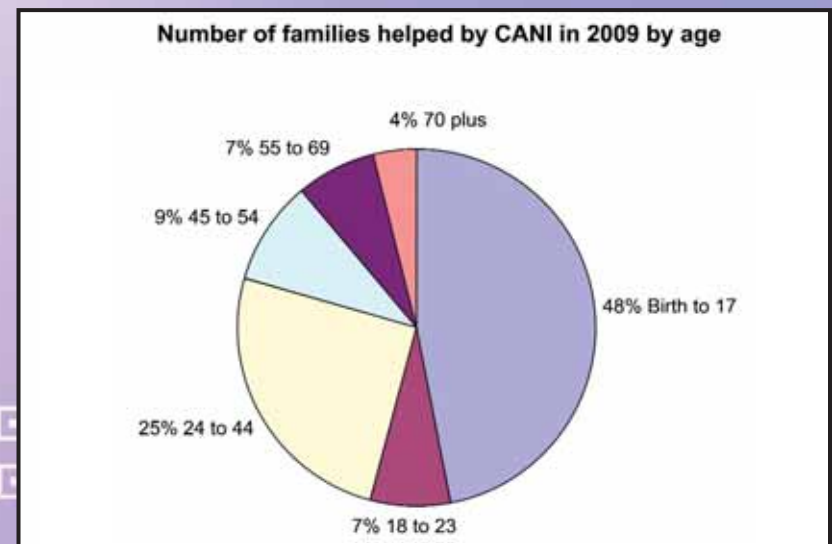
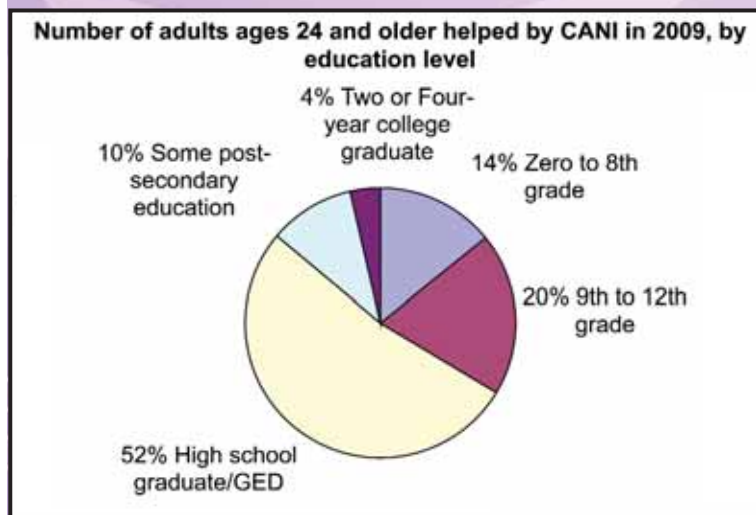
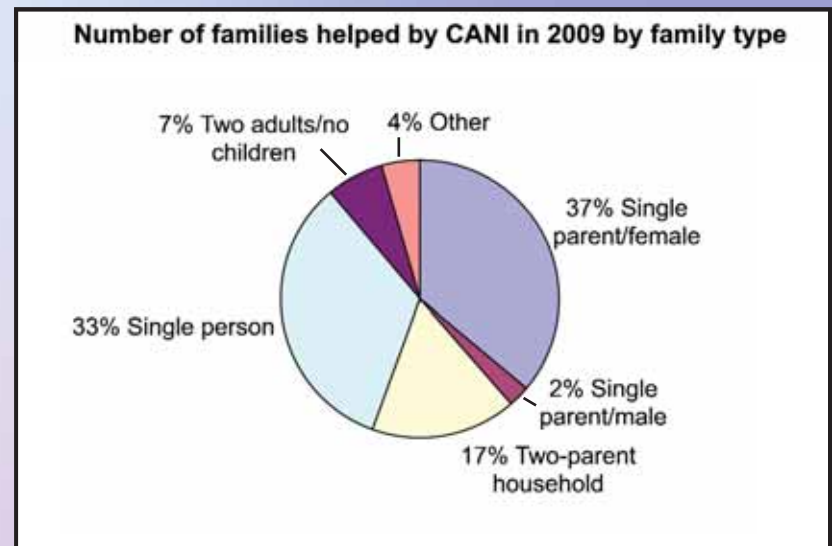
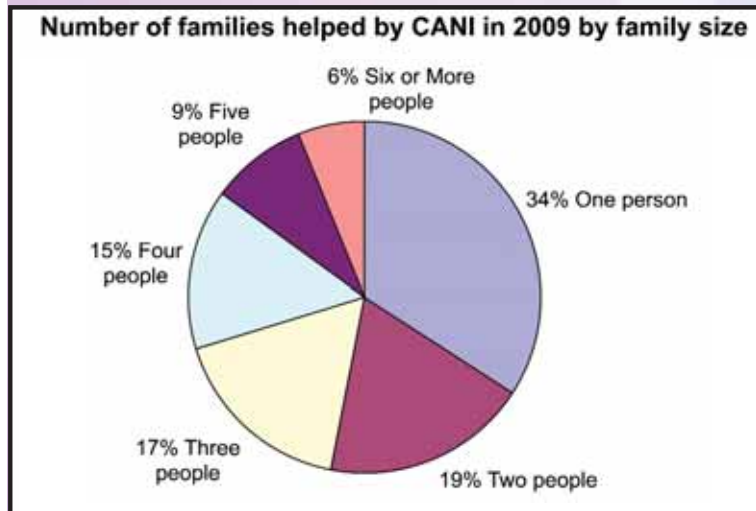
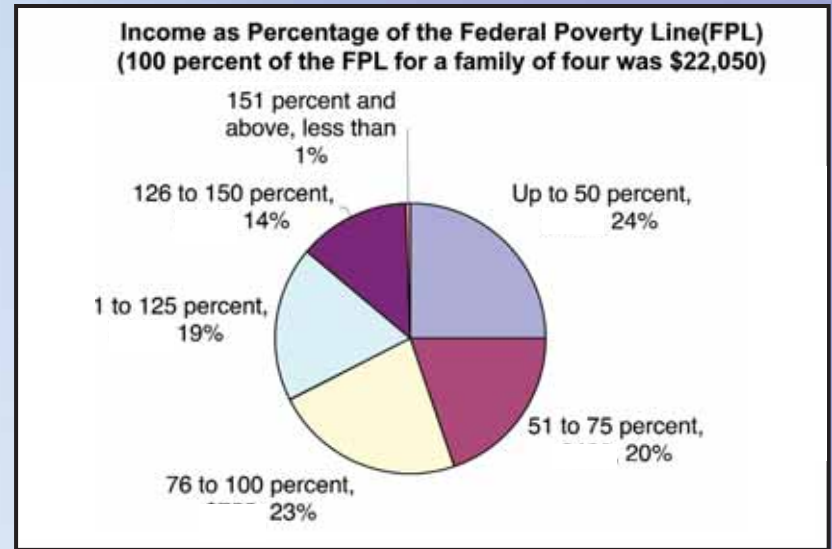
Program Name	Grantor Agency	Expenses
Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	IFSSA	\$521,269
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	IHCDA	495,676
Energy Assistance Program	IHCDA	6,782,908
Housing Choice Voucher Program	IHCDA	734,473
Shelter Plus Care	IHCDA	194,846
Weatherization Assistance Program - DOE	IHCDA	582,175
Weatherization Assistance Program - LIHEAP	IHCDA	914,085
Weatherization Assistance Program - SWEEP	IHCDA	37,519
IDA Administration	Indiana Department of Commerce	5,000
Head Start	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	5,093,711
Head Start In-Kind	Local match	1,820,976
Head Start CCDF	Parent Co-Pay and Voucher Revenue	119,763
USDA Reimbursement	Indiana Department of Education	267,152
Emergency Food & Assistance Programs (EFSP)	Emergency Food & Shelter National Board	22,656
Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) ARRA	Emergency Food & Shelter National Board	897
Head Start ARRA	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	52,232
Home Energy Conservation (HEC) ARRA	IHCDA	15,389
Family Development	Funded by CSBG*	147,299
Community Action Program	Funded by CSBG*	8,057
<b>Total Federal Programs:</b>		<b>\$17,592,209</b>
*Not included in totals.		
<b>Other State and Local Programs</b>		
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation	Head Start Assistance	8,445
Healthy Families	Community Alliance for Healthy Families	934,536
Donations	Various	40,606
Various United Way Programs	United Way	111,355
Home Energy Solutions	INCAA	157,798
I&M Weatherization	INCAA	33,579
NIPSCO Family Development	NIPSCO	10,912
Covering Kids & Families	Covering Kids & Families of Indiana	78,979
Other Programs	Various	8,084
<b>Total Other State and local Programs:</b>		<b>\$1,384,294</b>
<b>Total Program Activity:</b>		<b>\$18,976,503</b>

# CANI helped more than 32,000 people in 2009

CANI helped 32,481 people in northeast Indiana in 2009. Every year, CANI serves more than half of the 42,000 people living in poverty in the area.

## Last year, CANI made the following possible:

- 12,205 families received help with their utility bills, either reconnecting services or preventing disconnect.
- 3,725 children were provided quality child care in order for families to get or keep jobs or go to school.
- 4,182 people with disabilities and 2,471 senior citizens maintained independent living situations.
- 939 children developed school-readiness skills in preparation for kindergarten.
- 939 children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.
- 613 families were recipients of emergency food, housing and utility assistance.
- 445 people attended workshops on money management, interviewing and resume skills, or improving relationships.
- 1193 families became more self-sufficient through intensive, home-based case-management services.
- 179 families received monthly housing assistance in order to maintain safe and decent housing.
- 274 families lived in safer and more energy-efficient homes.



# 2009 In Kind Donors

## **Hero (\$10,000+)**

Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears of the World

## **Visionary (\$1,000-\$9,999)**

Bowen Center  
Classic Cafe  
Mr. Ronald Dierkes  
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo  
Fort Wayne Komet Hockey  
Fort Wayne Mad Ants  
Fort Wayne Museum of Art  
Ms. Anita VanAllen

## **Ambassador (\$500-\$999)**

Building Contractors Association of Northeast IN  
Kendallville Iron & Metal  
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken  
PFG- Customized Indiana  
Mr. Chris Stauffer  
U.S. 93.3

## **Guardian (\$250-\$499)**

Applebee's  
Chick-Fil-A - Glenbrook Mall  
Chick-Fil-A - Jefferson Pointe  
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Edward's Floor Covering  
Fort Wayne Hotel & Conference Center  
Peg Perego  
Scholastic Books  
Seyfert Chips Co.  
Spiece Fitness  
YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne - Metropolitan Offices

## **Advocate (\$100-\$249)**

ABG Dental of Ligonier  
Applebee's  
Ascension Luthern Church  
Brand One Promotions  
Cap n' Cork  
Check into Cash  
Delta Kappa Gamma  
Eichhorn Jewelry  
Fort Wayne TinCaps  
Mr. Dan & Rhonda Fuller  
Anonymous  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Hires Automotive Center  
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Holiday Inn Express  
HQ Entertainment  
Keith Miller Photography  
Ms. Amy Lazoff  
Mr. Richard Lee  
Lowe's  
Mary Kay  
Medieval Times  
Myers Law Office  
National City - Now a part of PNC  
New Haven Fire Department  
Putt Putt Golf and Games  
Ms. Judy Sheppard

Sam and Darlene Starbuck  
Subway  
Terminix  
The Cincinnati Reds LLC Corporate  
Verizon Plus  
Warbird Brewing Company  
WLDE 101.7  
Mr. Royce Wright

## **Friend (\$1-\$99)**

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Auntie Anne's Pretzels  
B. Antonio's Pizza  
Ballons to the Moon  
Ms. Kiera Banda  
Bath & Body Works  
Biaggi's and Ken Davenport  
Bobick's  
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Cookie Cottage, Inc.  
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Delta Kappa Gamma  
Didier Meats  
Discount Tire  
The Dome  
Don Chava's Mexican Grill  
Dunkin Donuts  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick & Janice Elliott  
Family Video  
Fazoli's  
Miss Dawn Federspiel  
Firefly Coffee House, Inc.  
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation  
Fort Wayne Philharmonic  
Frazier House  
Miss Alicia Gay  
Ms. Randi Ginder / Mary Kay  
Golden Corral  
Great Clips  
Annie B. Henderson  
IHOP  
Indiana Pacers Corporate Giving Program

Indiana Stamp  
Indianapolis Colts Inc. Corporate Giving Program  
Inventure Group  
JC Penney's  
Ms. Courtneery Jones  
Ken's Meat Market  
Key III Candies  
Mr. Howard Kitter  
Kroger  
Kuntry Lumber & Farm Supply  
L Spa Modern  
La Margarita  
Lakeland Glass Inc  
Lakeside Golf & Bowling  
Laser X Laser Tag  
Leti's Tacos  
Life Care Center of Fort Wayne  
Ligonier Animal Clinic  
Ms. Christina Lopez  
Mark's Ark Animal Shows  
Masters of Cosmetology College  
Meijer  
Midwest America Federal Credit Union  
Ms. Kathryne Monteith  
Mr. and Mrs. James & JoEllen Musser  
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Mr. Justin Niblick  
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Wal-Mart  
Ms. Sandy Wasson  
Ms. Michelle Webster  
Wendy's Restaurants of Fort Wayne  
Ms. Amanda Wilkinson  
Ms. Anneth Williams

# UPWARD BOUND

Moving to a new city can be overwhelming in and of itself. Combine that with being a single mother on a fixed income and it's especially rough.

Cara Manning relocated to Fort Wayne from St. Paul, Minn. in November 2009 to be closer to her family. She knew about a case management program in Minnesota that helped people become more self-sufficient. After some research she found out about CANI's Family Development program. And through Family Support Worker Gwen Brown's help, she has successfully achieved multiple goals.

Cara lost her job on the same day she gave birth to her baby boy Lathan. This unfortunate situation presented an opportunity to go back to school. Gwen encouraged her to enroll in college and apply for child care and energy assistance. Today she is a student at Ivy

Tech Community College, where she is studying psychology and sociology. She has peace of mind knowing her child receives quality child care while she's in class.

Perhaps most notable is that she has earned a 3.89 GPA at Ivy Tech while raising a family.

"She is motivated and wanted to prove to herself she could do it," Gwen said about Cara's commitment to her education.

Budgeting skills are vital to moving out of poverty and Cara seems to be on the right track. Gwen has worked with her on money management skills. Case in point: she saved enough to purchase a



*Photo By Lauren Caggiano, Development Coordinator*

**Cara earned a 3.89 GPA while raising her son Lathan.**

used van and to pay rent in advance.

Also impressive is her willingness to help others. She has assisted her roommate with applying for services such as Medicaid, TANF, food stamps, and public housing through Fort Wayne Housing Authority.

Cara is thankful for Gwen's support as well. Motivated, resourceful and ready to help others is how she described Gwen as a case worker.

"Gwen has led me to great things," she said.

Cara knows that Gwen won't always be around to help her. Self-sufficiency is what ultimately moves someone out of poverty.

"You have to have determination...if you're not a self-motivated person you have to reach out and ask for help."

## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT QUICK FACTS:

- Provides free, voluntary in-home supportive services that help identify family strengths, desires and goals;
- The focus is on attaining self sufficiency and living without the need for public assistance;
- Goal setting and working towards those goals is required;
- Available in Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley counties.



# EXPECTANT MOTHER THANKFUL FOR STATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Imagine being pregnant and without health insurance. Sadly this is a stark reality for many Hoosiers. In Allen County alone, one in seven adults is lacking health insurance.

Stacy Hand found herself in this situation last year upon being laid off from her job. She and her husband had been trying to have children for ten years. So when she found out she was pregnant, it was both a joyous and scary occasion.

Desperate to find help, she researched the various state-funded health insurance options available. It was through this process she became acquainted with Covering Kids and Families Coordinator Paige Wilkins who helped her enroll in Hoosier Healthwise, a health insurance program for Indiana children, pregnant women and low-income families.

Paige informed Stacy about the Presumptive Eligibility (PE) clause, which allows a pregnant woman to receive a temporary Medicaid number at the time of the PE application. This covers prenatal care, birth and the postpartum visit. Stacy said the best part about the program was that she could remain with her cur-

rent doctor.

Stacy said Paige was truly a God-send during this trying time.

“Anytime I had any questions, she was right on top of it,” she said about Paige.

What’s more, Paige was easy to talk to and put her at ease.

At the time of press, Stacy and her husband were eagerly awaiting a baby boy, whom they plan to name Jesse.

In hindsight, Stacy said the process was humbling and made her count her blessings. Despite the challenges, she advises anyone in need to apply for the state-funded health insurance plans.

“Don’t hesitate to call,” she said.

CANI is a member of Covering Kids & Families of Indiana, Inc.



*Stock photo*

Lack of health insurance is a common cause of poverty. CANI helps connect expectant mothers to health insurance.

(CKF-IN) which is a statewide organization committed to ensuring that all children and families eligible for Medicaid and the State’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) are enrolled. Covering Kids & Families of Indiana is a partnership of more than five hundred organizations and individuals “Advocating Health Coverage for All.” For more information about Hoosier Healthwise, visit the Covering Kids and Families Indiana Web site, [www.ckfindiana.org](http://www.ckfindiana.org).

# Reaching for the Stars

“Can’t” is not a word in Roshanda Hardy’s vocabulary.

In addition to the demands of raising three children, Head Start mother Roshanda is currently enrolled at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in radiography. After graduation, she ultimately hopes to find work in the field as a technician. And it’s no coincidence that she has made the dean’s list through her hard work and dedication. Put simply, Roshanda is a go-getter and it’s contagious.

But her academic life only tells part of the story. After a few minutes of talking to her, it’s clear that Roshanda has big dreams for the future. In addition to pursuing a career in the medical field she has aspirations of opening up an entertainment company, appropriately called “Driven Entertainment LLC.”

Speaking of aspirations, Head Start Family Advocates work with families to help them

achieve various life goals. Family Advocate Neal Davis has been working with Roshanda for the past year and has been a great support system for her family.

“I really like him...he’s a great person,” she said about Neal.

Likewise, Neal has a great deal of respect for Roshanda:

“She is really achievement-oriented and demonstrates her commitment towards her educational goals,” he said.

Roshanda was first introduced to Head Start when her mother enrolled her in the program. Years later as a mother, she knew it was the right choice for quality education for her preschool-aged children, currently ages 5 and 4. She enrolled them at the CANI Head Start’s site at Achduth Vesholom Temple and has nothing but great things to say about the program.



Photo Contributed

Roshanda hopes to help people through her future career.

One of the best parts about Head Start is that it cuts down on childcare costs, Roshanda noted. She can go to school and not have to worry about finding quality and reliable child care.

In her spare time, Roshanda enjoys spending time with her children and enjoying what motherhood brings her way.

“God wanted me to re-do(my life) and be a mother...it’s a wonderful gift,” she said.

## BUILDING ASSETS



Photo By Lauren Caggiano, Development Coordinator  
Sandra’s long-term goal is to make enough money to afford to go back to school.

About a year ago Sandra Miller was in a situation many home owners face. The home needed significant repairs, but there was simply not enough money in the budget for such extra expenses.

About this time Sandra was referred to CANI, where she learned about the IDA (Individual Development Account) program for low-income Hoosiers. Since 1997, the program has helped many people to enter the economic mainstream through the purchase of a home, obtaining a degree and other milestones.

Overall, the IDA program is designed to assist low-income families like Sandra’s in

achieving financial independence and self sufficiency by providing the skills to: develop a budget and set goals, establish regular savings habits and invest in assets.

The monies can be used for the purposes of higher education, small business capitalization, home purchase and home rehabilitation. Participants must have earned income, be an Indiana resident and report an annual household income less than 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

In Sandra’s case, she needed money to fix a fence, install a new sliding door, carpet, replace leaky faucets and replace a sump pump. She put money aside for this project and was eventually able to make this dream a reality through the state’s match money. Under current guidelines, for every \$1 saved by an IDA participant, he or she will receive at least a \$3- match on their deposit.

The home improvements totaled more than \$1,700—a significant investment in her home. She was able to make her money go further by purchasing items at end-of-season sales. She also did the labor herself to cut down on added costs.

### IDA QUICK FACTS:

- Designed to assist low-income families achieve financial independence and self sufficiency;
- Monies can be used for the purposes of higher education, small business capitalization, home purchase and home rehabilitation;
- Participants must have earned income, be an Indiana resident and report an annual household income less than 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

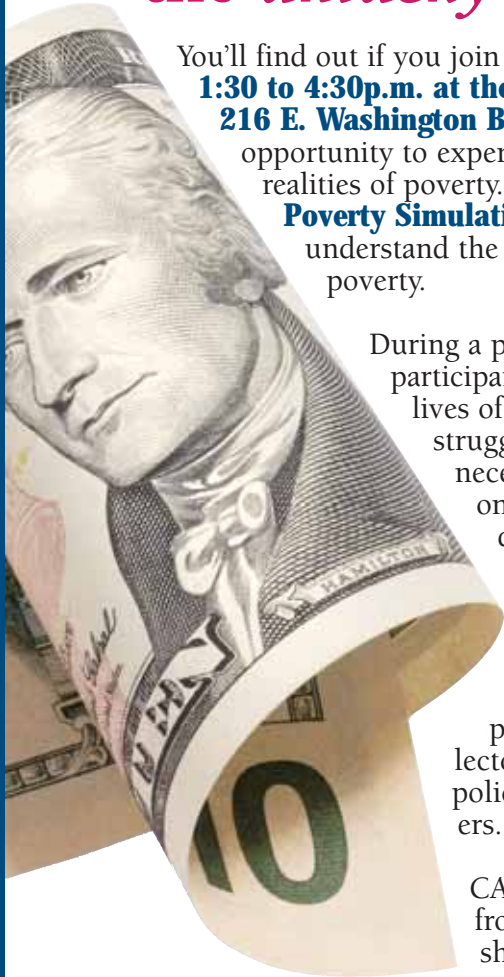
“I was always trying to save and (the IDA program) enabled me to do the repairs,” she said.

Individuals must do their part to earn this money. Sandra enrolled in a financial literacy course offered through CANI, where she honed her budgeting skills.

“I was already doing a lot of the stuff (they recommended), but I learned some, too,” she said.

Sandra is in the second year of the four-year program. If all goes as planned, she will receive the next round of match money in July.

**Will you start out the month with only this \$10 bill to meet your family's basic needs? ... Or, will you be one of the *unlucky* ones?**



You'll find out if you join us on **May 20 from 1:30 to 4:30p.m. at the Freemasons Hall, 216 E. Washington Blvd** for a unique opportunity to experience the virtual realities of poverty. CANI is hosting a **Poverty Simulation** to help people understand the complexities of poverty.

During a poverty simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families struggling to meet basic necessities and shelter on a limited budget during the course of four 15-minute "weeks." They interact with human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officers and others.

CANI welcomes people from the community to share in this experience. For more information, contact CANI Development Coordinator Lauren Caggiano at (260) 760-8924, or [laurencaggiano@cani-help.org](mailto:laurencaggiano@cani-help.org). **Space is limited, so please RSVP by May 13.**

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

## **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!*

### **April 2010**

#### **Visionary (\$1,000-\$9,999)**

*Keller Development  
Wal-Mart Supercenter*

*Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hoffman*

#### **Ambassador (\$500-\$999)**

*Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears of the World*

#### **Advocate (\$100-\$249)**

*Ms. Jane Chappell - in honor of Joe Conrad*

*Ms. Jennie Renner - in honor of Joe Conrad*

*Trine University*

#### **Friend (\$1-\$99)**

*Ms. Julie I. Miller - in honor of Joe Conrad*

*Mr. Aaron Murray*

*Ms. Laura Dwire*

*Mrs. Margaret Walter*

### **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.**

“I’m writing to thank everyone at CANI for the Weatherization project that was done for my family. We very much appreciate it and I’m sure it will help with our heating bills. Ted Ramp and the other men that worked here were all courteous and hard workers.”  
 -Weatherization Client

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Please write amount of your donation on the appropriate line. I want to be a:  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ Advocate (\$100 - \$249)      \_\_\_\_\_ Ambassador (\$500 - \$999)      \_\_\_\_\_ Friend (\$1 - \$99)

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

*Thank You*

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 Or you may donate online at [www.canihelp.org](http://www.canihelp.org).

**And remember, your gift is tax-deductible.**