

CANI

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

Chronicles

CANI: Still Fighting the Fight

The recently released Census statistics underline the need for an agency like CANI.

According to the 2005 Census data, about 38.2 million people, or 13.3 percent of the U.S. population, had income below the poverty threshold. The 2010 Census reported 43.6 million poor people - an increase of more than 5 million, or 12 percent in five year's time.

The increase in poverty and decrease in income are extreme, both locally and nationally. The 2010 figures represent the highest number of Americans living in poverty in the past 50 years. On average, one out of seven people are fighting poverty, including 15.5 million children.

This trend is alarming. Just look around and it's easy to see that folks in our community are struggling just to get by.

The national statistics comes as no surprise to poverty relief agencies like CANI, who have felt the impact in the past year. It is true that many Northeast Indiana families are struggling to meet day-to-day expenses,

much less get ahead.

The good news is that our families haven't given up the fight. In order for a family to receive child care assistance from CANI, a parent must be working or going to school. In addition to the hundreds of families who receive assistance, there is always a waiting list for this program. As of June 2010, 1807 children were on the waiting list; this compares to 462 children on the list at the same time in 2009. That means

parents are going to work or school to get a degree. In a few years' time those in school will have a better chance at earning a higher wage, one path out of poverty.

Programs like child care assistance help stimulate the local economy. In fact, if each of the families CANI helps moved to exactly 100 percent of the poverty level there would be a total increase in income of \$375,471 per

month.

Projecting that out to the entire CANI service population would mean an increase in income of \$6,736,778 per month, or \$80,841,339 per year - over \$80 million dollars being spent in your community! And this is just moving people to the federal definition of poverty. The impact of moving people to a level where they can meet all their basic needs (roughly double the federal poverty level) increases exponentially.



Photo By Lauren Caggiano, Development Coordinator

CANI has helped local families since 1965. The recently released Census figures serve as a reminder of why the agency exists.

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Census figures tell bleak story, but CANI is here to help.

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

CANI Mission

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

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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

200 S Cavin St.

Ligonier, IN 46767
894-3048

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 a.m. Friday

CANI'S OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED NOV 11 FOR VETERAN'S DAY AND NOV. 25-26 IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING. THE AGENCY WILL ALSO BE CLOSED DEC. 23, 24, 30 AND 31ST.

Have
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PASTA PROGRAMS BENEFITS PARENTS, CHILDREN

One path out of poverty is gaining employment skills that can lead to a better job. One of CANI Head Start's programs provides such an opportunity.

PASTA (Preparing As Substitute Teacher Assistants) is a training program, developed by CANI Head Start and East Wayne Head Start to offer meaningful early childhood training to Head Start parents and guardians, while at the same time providing experienced and qualified substitutes in the classrooms. The CANI Head Start PASTA Program began as a pilot program in 2002 and has changed many lives since then.

Parents interested in working with young children complete a PASTA application and are interviewed before they become a "PASTA Trainee." The PASTA Program has three components. The first is to attend training modules, facilitated by staff, to introduce parents to early childhood philosophy, principles, and practices. The Head Start Health Coordinator also provides training to parents in CPR/First Aid/ and Universal Precautions Training.

The second component of the PASTA program requires trainees to complete 50 hours of volunteering specifically in Head Start classrooms, applying what they are learning about early childhood. State childcare licensing regulations require parents to submit all required documentation

prior to working with the children.

The final component includes an evaluation of the trainee, exit interview, and opportunity to complete an application for employment with CANI. When these three components are met, the trainee is awarded a Certificate Of Completion signed by the CANI Head Start Director and the CANI Executive Director.

The great thing about PASTA is that it's a win-win situation for the Head Start program and the parents involved. The Head Start program benefits because classroom staff and children have substitutes that understand children and the Head Start program. In turn, participants and their children benefit from the newly acquired skills. What's more, additional substitutes are available to allow staff to attend training and formal education, which makes better teachers for the children.

The parent participants derive equal benefits. Once in the classroom, the parents are not left to function alone. Rather, they receive support from in-house facilitators who provide training and classroom staff who provide mentoring. This mentoring and career exploration can help parents better decide whether early childhood education is a good fit. CANI Head Start sets the tone for success, yet recognizes that not all participants will decide to continue with early childhood education



Photo By Joy Kitter, Center Supervisor
Aprille Baylock is a PASTA program CANI Head Start success story.

as a career.

Aprille Baylock is an example of a PASTA success story. She entered the program as a Head Start mother in 2003 and later transitioned into a teaching position at the Head Start site at the Salvation Army. She said the program was a learning experience and a source of empowerment.

"PASTA is a great program," she said. "It really encouraged me to go further."

Aprille has since earned her CDA (Child Development Associate) and is on her way to completing an associate's degree in early childhood education.

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 _____

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

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

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.

PROGRAM IMPROVES NEIGHBORHOODS, STIMULATES LOCAL ECONOMY

CANI's Purchase, Rehabilitate and Resale (PRR) program has launched to great success! This program is designed to provide an affordable opportunity for eligible homebuyers who can obtain financing to purchase a home.

The agency recently completed the renovation of two foreclosed homes located at 331 Tanglewood Drive and 211 Sara Drive in New Haven. The investment in foreclosed properties was deliberate, according to Housing Projects Coordinator Janel Cain.

Recent statistics from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) have indicated that each conventional foreclosure within an eighth of a mile of a single family home results in a decline in property value of between 0.9 and 1.44 percent. A single home can affect values for 600 feet in every direction, damaging the property values of over 150 homes.

In addition to the intended benefits to the neighborhoods and to the future homeowner, this project has produced measurable affects on the local economy.



Photos By Janel Cain, Housing Projects Coordinator

The houses on Sara and Tanglewood Drives will soon be occupied. Now that the homes are renovated, CANI will expand its efforts to Dekalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties.

It seems the good vibes have been contagious, as neighbor Bob Meredith called to express his appreciation for the Tanglewood Drive house's transformation:

"We were very impressed," he said. "Everything is absolutely beautiful and everyone seemed very professional and caring."

In short, Janel is convinced that CANI's efforts will have a positive impact on neighborhoods and property values in the community.

"It feels good to talk with the neighbors who have stopped by and hear the excitement and gratitude in their voices," she said.

The agency held an open house for both properties on Oct. 19. This provided an opportunity for board members, public officials and media to tour the home. The houses were still for sale at the time of press. Contact Barb Cayce, (260) 423-3546, ext. 257 for more information.

"Through this project we have rehabilitated two affordable homes, stimulated jobs (contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, banks, insurance companies, etc.) in the local area of New Haven, while helping the community deal with vacant properties that are dragging down values of entire neighborhoods," Janel said.

Case in point: Trinity Home Design in New Haven supplied siding and accessories for the homes. Owner Kevin Walsh raved how the project has benefited his business:

"This has helped to keep us busy and to keep on a man that I hired this spring (our first new hire in over three years)," he told Janel in an email.

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

PROGRAM SHEDS LIGHT ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

What does health care reform mean to the average person?

A program on PBS, Channel 39 on Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. attempted to answer this very question. CANI participated in the 30-minute call-in show called "A Closer Look at Healthcare Reform." CANI's

Covering Kids and Families (CKF) Supervisor Paige Wilkins sat on a panel with other health care professionals. Mary Hauptert, Executive Director, Neighborhood Health Clinic; David Roos, Executive Director, Covering Kids and Families of Indiana and Jim Porter, Senior VP Revenue Cycle Management, Parkview Health. Viewers called to pose a variety of questions, pertaining to insurance deductibles, Medicare/Medicaid, choosing a doctor, etc.

CANI CKF Supervisor Paige Wilkins said outreach efforts like this are important because many eligible individuals are simply not aware of the health insurance plans available to them. Since the eligibility income levels are relatively high, working class families would likely qualify. And especially in the current economic climate



Photo Courtesy of PBS, Channel 39
The panelists were chosen for their expertise on the topic of health insurance and health care.

more and more people lack health coverage.

"It's important to get the word out because (many families) don't have benefits," she said.

And through efforts like this, she hopes to debunk people's misconceptions about health care reform. As part of the CKF coalition, CANI is charged with doing just that. "Advocating Health Coverage for All," Covering Kids & Families of Indiana is an integral partner with the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration to help get the word out to Indiana residents about the available public health coverage

programs: Hoosier Healthwise and Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP). Hoosier Healthwise is Indiana's affordable health insurance program for low-income families, children and pregnant women.

For more information about Covering Kids & Families, visit www.ckfindiana.org. Visit CANI's Facebook page to view the program in its entirety.

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STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY

If challenges make you stronger, then Sarah has the strength of a thousand women.

The Fort Wayne woman's journey started as a mother at 16, when she quickly learned how to navigate her way through the social services world.

She first learned of CANI's services more than 15 years ago, while living in DeKalb County. Another agency informed her of the child care voucher program, and she was connected with help.

CANI helps mothers like Sarah work or attend school through the child care assistance program in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. The goal is to help parents make ends meet so they can pursue an education, find a job, or maintain employment ultimately helping them become self-sufficient

The vouchers have been especially helpful in times of need, as Sarah's family has continued to grow. Today the hair stylist

has three children, ages 17, 16 and 2. In better times she was able to come off the assistance. However, loss of a second income due to a divorce presented financial challenges. Still, she did not want to compromise her daughter's well being, in spite of income limitations.

She sought quality, affordable and reliable daycare for her two-year old daughter Lillian, and CANI's vouchers make that possible. The Early Childhood Alliance referred her to a reputable provider in her neighborhood. Now she can rest easy knowing her daughter is in good hands because her daycare is certified through Paths to QUALITY, a state system that ensures consistent standards in providers.

"That's huge to me," she said. "It better ensures that she's getting proper care."

In addition to the high quality care, Sarah said the financial assistance makes a big difference in her everyday life. She is thankful that the state has provided money for single mothers like herself who want to work.



Photo Contributed
Lillian, age 2, gets quality childcare while her mom is at work. The CANI Child Care Assistance program makes it possible.

"It's a hand up, not a hand out," she said.

CANI (child care assistance) is one of the programs that helps working mothers, she said, and that's something everyone can rally behind.

WEATHERIZATION SAVES THE DAY



Photo By Ted Ramp, CANI Weatherization Inspector
Prior to the work, Bernadette's home was an energy hog. Weatherization can cut a resident's energy bills by as much as 25 percent.

It's amazing what a few improvements can do to improve the overall efficiency of a home.

Bernadette Jankovich is a firm believer in the power of Weatherization. She first learned about the program through CANI while applying for energy assistance.

The South Whitley woman has lived in a modular home for three years. Her inefficient heating and air conditioner unit was an on going problem and she was desperate to remedy it. She called on a local contractor to fix it on two different occasions, yet the situation did not improve.

Luckily for her CANI's Weatherization crew saved the day.

"Those young men (contractors) came out and worked on the house for two days," she said.

While there, they found out the vents were disconnected. Bernadette's home required several improvements, including tuning and cleaning the furnace, replacing filters, belly repair, duct sealing and insulation.

Prior to the work she said the furnace never shut off. Now the house has a consistent, stable temperature.

"It's unbelievable," she said about the changes in temperature.

Her typical energy bill has been about \$200 a month and she's anxious to see how much it has gone down.

Bernadette knows there are many other people out there like herself who need help.

"It's worth a try...I was one of those people who has a hard time asking for help," she said. "Don't be afraid to ask."

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Write A Will Event - 2010

Did you know you can make the world a better place by leaving a charitable gift (called a bequest) in your Will to your favorite charity? You can. Anyone can. You don't have to be fabulously wealthy to leave a charitable bequest. You just have to have a cause you care about and want to support.

CANI has signed up to be a partner in the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Indiana's "WRITE A WILL" week. **Through the generosity of volunteer attorneys, donors can meet with a lawyer and have a simple will prepared for free if a bequest to a charity is included in the will.**

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with a lawyer at CANI during the week of November 15 – 19, please call:



Jennifer Renner - 260.760.2612



LEAVE A LEGACY®

NORTHEAST INDIANA

CANI - 227 E Washington Blvd – Fort Wayne, IN

www.pgcni.org

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!

The following donations have been received since our last issue.

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Improvement Program*

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“(The job skills workshop) was informative and inspirational. It had the power to keep people focused.”

-Family Education Workshop Client

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Looking to Make an End of Year Gift that Grows and Lasts Forever?

Community Action of Northeast Indiana (CANI) has an Agency Endowment with the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.

This Agency Endowment was opened by CANI to establish a fund which is kept in perpetuity to provide an ongoing stream of revenue generated by the investment of principal.

When you give to CANI’s Agency Endowment fund your gift becomes 20% bigger because the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne matches 20% of your gift up to \$10,000 per calendar year. So your donation of \$100 becomes a gift of \$120. Your donation, plus the 20 % match, will be added to CANI’s endowment fund.

Your tax-deductible charitable contribution to the Community Foundation supports CANI and helps make our community an even better place to call home.

Donor Information:

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Amount of Gift (A minimum gift of \$50 would be appreciated) \$ 50 \$ 100 \$250 \$ 500 \$ 1,000 Other \$ _____