

CANI Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

Chronicles

Remembering Sargent Shriver

Community Action has lost its father. On Jan. 18, the world mourned the loss of R. Sargent Shriver, Jr. at the age of 95. Mr. Shriver was a distinguished public servant and a visionary leader whose work laid the foundation for the Community Action movement as we know it today.

As Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity in the Johnson Administration in the mid-1960s, Shriver developed a multi-faceted "War on Poverty" designed to transform the economic and social roots of the conflict over civil rights in America. Like the Peace Corps, the programs of the War on Poverty - including Head Start, Job Corps, VISTA, Community Action Program, Legal Services to the Poor, and Foster Grandparentss - continue to serve Americans today.

Indeed Community Action, and ultimately CANI, would not be where it

is today if it weren't for this man's contributions, according to CANI Executive Director Steve Hoffman. The key concepts of local control over the organizations and strategies of the Community Action Agencies, and the voice from the entire community, but most especially from



Photo From www.sargentshriver.org

Sargent Shriver laid the foundation for Community Action. He passed away January 18, 2011, at the age of 95.

those individuals being served, originated with Mr. Shriver.

"These concepts continue to be an integral part of Community Action today. But perhaps his most lasting legacy is his dedication to fighting poverty in general. We use Mr. Shriver's example as a model for all who work in Community Action," he added.

This man's life can be an inspiration for those everywhere who wish to make a difference in the world. This quote pretty much sums up his work:

"It is not what you get out of life that counts. It's what you give and what is given from the heart."

More than anything his death serves as a reminder of the importance of giving back. For more information about Sargent Shriver, visit www.sargentshriver.org.

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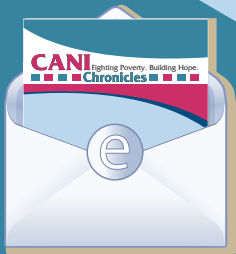
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For more information call (260) 399-4109.



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CANI Mission

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

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Elkhart, IN 46516
574-293-3460

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CANI Hours of Operation

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

On Jan. 12 the CANI lobby was a little noisier than usual. The noise; however was not the typical hustles and bustle—it was classical music.

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic (affectionately known as “The Phil”) brought the joy of symphony music to staff and clients as part of a program called “Random Acts of Music.” A string quartet brightened spirits and seemed to have a mesmerizing effect on a few. It was a nice distraction from the harsh winter weather.

According to Education and Ensembles Coordinator Ed Stevens, the program’s objective is to “increase community awareness of classical music and the Philharmonic as people go about their daily routines.” The performance is

intended to be a surprise and increase the value of music in people’s everyday lives. “We want to reach people in a deep and meaningful way,” he said. “We hope to spread the word that we’re here and a world-class orchestra in Fort Wayne.”

The program kicked off in January 2010 and has seen great success. CANI is one of several venues, including the Fort Wayne International Airport and City-County building, that has enjoyed the benefits of this outreach effort. The best part is the program is free to participating organizations made possible through underwriting from the W. Gene Marcus Trust.

Ed noted The Phil is still accepting requests for performances. The program is



Four Members from The Philharmonic performed classical music at CANI on January 12.

free of charge and available to approved venues. For more information, visit The Phil’s Web site, www.fwphil.org.

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS BRING ADDED JOY

In addition to the children and teachers, there is another group of smiling faces in the Head Start classroom. They are Foster Grandparents.

As a program of a national government initiative called Senior Corps, the Foster Grandparent Program “connects volunteers age 55 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in the United States.”

CANI Head Start has had the program in place for more than 25 years. Each week, about fourteen volunteers pledge their time at various CANI Head Start sites. Foster Grandparents are in the classroom to give an extra hand to the teachers, to love the children and give them extra attention.

The Grandparents receive a stipend for being in the classroom, self respect, and the satisfaction of helping others. More than anything it’s an opportunity for them to make an impression and impact the lives of young children.

“Grandma Joyce,” a retired J.C. Penney’s worker, has volunteered at the CANI Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton

since September 2010. She said she heard about the program from a friend. Joyce describes the program’s appeal:

“It’s something to do and doesn’t require a lot of hours,” she said. “And the children enjoy having someone besides a teacher (in the classroom).”

Grandma Joyce said she has learned a lot since being in the classroom and recommends the program. She especially looks forward to the field trips.

“Grandma Shirley” has volunteered for 17 years at various Head Start sites. The former homemaker said she enjoys listening to the children’s comments:

“You never know what is gonna’ come out of their mouths!” she said.

Indeed the Foster Grandparents are an integral part of the Head Start program.

“They’re an incredible group of people – kind, open-hearted, full of knowledge and experience,” said Annie Henderson, center supervisor at the CANI Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton.

“I feel very lucky to get

to work with people like them.”

For more information about the Foster Grandparent program, visit www.seniorcorps.gov.



Grandma Joyce a Foster Grandparent for CANI Head Start, appreciates the variety in her role. “The children do something different every-day,” she said.

Grandma Shirley is a seasoned caretaker, with 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She volunteers four hours each weekday as a Foster Grandparent.



BEARS BRING BIG SMILES TO CANI CHILDREN

They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are soft and fluffy; some are fuzzy. Above all they are a source of comfort and joy to children in CANI's programs, most often the preschoolers in Head Start. "They" are stuffed bears.

These bears (and sometimes other stuffed animals) are donated regularly by a local group known as The Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears of the World. Good Bears of the World is a non profit 501(c) 3 organization which provides teddy bears to children of all ages.

The members have brought happiness to the community for five years now. In June 2005, Donna Gordon-Hearn, Phyllis Huffer and Brandie Layne decided to form a new den of Good Bears of the World. The Disorderly Bear Den, Fort Wayne, was chartered by the internal organization on Sept. 1, 2006. Since then, the group has grown to 17 members.

The group's mission is simple: to ease loneliness and inspire love and compassion through gifts of teddy bears. To that end, they depend on the generosity of community members to donate the bears. Donations can be new or "pre-loved." School, church and community groups often

organize "bear drives" to show support for the cause. Cash donations are used to purchase new bears.

Once received, the members follow a standard process to prepare the items for delivery. This involves sorting, "fluffing" and adding new ribbons if needed. Once "donation ready," they are delivered to a variety of community groups: nursing homes, hospitals and social service organizations like CANI.

Co-founder Donna Gordon-Hearn spoke about the special relationship with CANI. Since 2007, the den has made between four and ten donations a year to the agency.

Reaching out to the less fortunate is rewarding because bears are "things they don't usually have. Plus, it's a wonderful program," she said.

A special part of this project is that it brings out the best in people. The school groups who donate are taught the value of giving.

"A lot of children are taught to give (of) themselves and do not expect anything in return," she said.



Stock Photo

The Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears of the World enjoys bringing smiles to the faces of CANI Head Start preschoolers.

The den welcomes donations and new members with open arms. Den members will pick-up donations at the donor's convenience. The only criteria for membership is that you are 11 years or older. For more information, contact Donna Gordon-Hearn, (260) 409-9886 or tdbear7@comcast.net.

WANT TO BE A GREAT COMMUNITY? FIRST YOU PLAN...

By Jennifer Renner, Development Supervisor

A joint Quality of Life Leadership training with CANI and Pathfinders Community Services was held at South Side High School on January 15, 2011. Pathfinders is engaging residents in the 46807 area of Fort Wayne in a Quality of Life Plan while CANI is facilitating a Plan in Waynedale.

John Marron and Andy Frazier from the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development were on hand supporting the project. The trainers were Josh Bowling from Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) and John Steinbach, a consultant from Fort Wayne.

as a means of working towards a Quality of Life Plan. Appreciative Inquiry seeks to find the best of "what is" to help people imagine and build "what might be."

Josh shared his real life experiences in community involvement and how his own neighborhood developed their Quality of Life Plan. He showed everyone how the process starts with individuals...then groups...then institutions.

John gave a history of Appreciative Inquiry and began to describe how people can approach their neighbors and local business owners to encourage them to participate in the process.

On February 5, Mr. Steinbach followed up with a second training on how to do one-on-one interviews. Participants at this meeting got to experience the actual data collection process by interviewing someone else in the group. These interviews are meant to uncover the current strengths of the area and possibilities for an even better future.

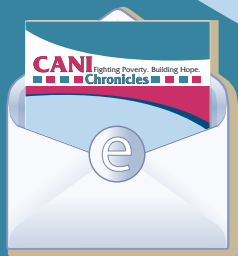


Photo by Janel Cain, CANI Housing Projects Coordinator

Tabitha Rowe and Beulah Stoker from Waynedale attended the Quality of Life Plan training on Jan 15 at South Side High School. They and other Waynedale residents will conduct interviews over the next few months leading up to a Planning Summit event on April 30.

Material from the interviews will be used in a Planning Summit for Waynedale to be held April 30. The Summit will be open to anyone who works and/or lives in Waynedale. Ideas from the session will lead to positive actions, some of which will be funded by grant money and other available resources.

For more information, contact CANI Housing Projects Coordinator, Janel Cain at (260) 423-3546, ext. 250.



Attendees were introduced to the concept of Appreciative Inquiry

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MAD ANTS PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS CANI

The Fort Wayne Mad Ants understand what it means to give back to the community.

Over the past four years the sports team has generously donated hundreds of tickets to benefit CANI staff, clients, board members and supporters. Additionally the Mad Ants mascot has made several appearances at various CANI Head Start sites.

“CANI Night” at the Mad Ants game is an

opportunity to showcase the agency and bring people together. This year’s CANI Night is scheduled for March 19 at 7:30pm at the Memorial Coliseum. Highlights include half-time entertainment and a high-five tunnel. Additionally, CANI will be selling game programs to raise funds.

CANI is among several community organizations that have benefited from the



The NBA D-League makes it a priority to give back to the community. *Photo Contributed*

Mad Ants’ outreach. Mad Ants Account Executive Kyle Thoms said the team has made it a priority to give back since its founding.

“We wanted to do well by doing good in the community and enhance the quality of life,” he said.

In addition to the awareness nights, Kyle highlighted the Mad Ants other community work: a safety program, fitness challenge and reading program.

Kyle said the team is heavily promoting CANI Night through its Web site, newsletter and other marketing tools. And during the actual game the agency will be promoted on the video board and signage. Above all, Kyle said he hopes to get the word out about CANI to other fans.

One dollar tickets are for donors, board members, employees, and their families. Free tickets are available to CANI clients and their families. Ticket order forms and payment are due by March 9. Tickets will be distributed the week of March 14th. Contact Jennie Renner, (260) 399-4103 or jenniferrenner@canihelp.org with questions.



CANI Group Night

Mad Ants vs Springfield Armor
Saturday, March 19th
7:30P.M. at the Memorial Coliseum

FREE Tickets available for CANI program participants and their immediate family members! CANI volunteers, board members, employees, and their families only pay \$1 for each ticket!

NATIONALLY TELEVISED GAME

- This game will be broadcasted on the Versus channel!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- CANI representatives will be recognized throughout the game.

HALFTIME ENTERTAINMENT

- The popular act Quick Change will perform at halftime!

HIGH FIVE TUNNEL

- Some group members will be able to form the tunnel to welcome the Mad Ants players back on the court for the second half.

MAD ANTS PROGRAM SALES

- CANI will be selling game programs and retaining half of the proceeds!

ACT FAST

ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Email: _____
 # of FREE tickets: _____
 # of additional tickets: _____ X \$1.00 = TOTAL \$ _____ Payment Enclosed: Cash or Check
 Free tickets are limited CANI clients and their immediate family members. Tickets for others are available for \$1 per ticket. Orders due by Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Tickets will be distributed the week of March 14TH.

CANI Family Training Building Block
FOR THE COMMUNITY

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.



Please mail this completed form to:
CANI
PO Box 10570
Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570
 Or you may donate online at www.canihelp.org.

FAMILY FEELS WARMTH OF WEATHERIZATION, CANI



Stock Photo

Weatherization helps families in Allen, Noble and Whitley counties.

Life changed drastically almost overnight for one Fort Wayne family, thanks to CANI's Weatherization program.

The Smith* family's journey started a few years ago when they downsized to save on housing costs.

It was in early 2010 when she first became aware of the Weatherization program. A team came to her home in October to complete the necessary work. The "to do list" included a furnace tune-up and new insulation. Elizabeth said the workers were "very efficient and hard-working."

She especially appreciates CANI Inspector Tim Dykehouse for going the extra mile. He was kind, followed through on the project and provided

her family with some educational materials on energy saving.

Elizabeth said the house is a comfortable temperature now and the furnace seems to be working more efficiently.

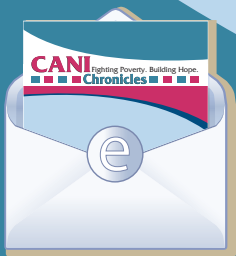
"Every night it's so toasty. It makes a huge difference...night and day," she said.

Elizabeth works two part-time jobs to make ends meet. She said there is no shame in asking for help if need be:

"If you are working hard to attain your goals, there is no reason to be embarrassed. Sometimes things happen beyond our control."

The CANI Weatherization program improves about 200 low-income homes each year in Northeast Indiana. CANI provides this service in Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties.

**The family's name was changed for personal reasons.*



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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 in-kind and cash donations have been received since our last issue.

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Photo Contributed

Families enjoyed an afternoon of roller skating at Bell's Roller Skating Rink Feb. 19th as part of CANI Head Start's Male Involvement Leading Children (MILC) program.

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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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 City, State, ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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 In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

Please notify _____ Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Please make your check payable and send to: Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, 555 E. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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

For more information, call CANI at (260) 399-4103 or the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne at (260) 426-4083, or e-mail info@cfgfw.org.