

# CANI Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

## Chronicles

## The Face of Hope

So often we concentrate on the “face of poverty.” But what does the face of hope look like? It would likely be that of Franjessica Whitsett.

Franjessica Whitsett, a Head Start mother, recently earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Saint Francis. While in school, Franjessica was assigned to do height and weight checks at the CANI Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton, as part of her nursing clinicals. She was impressed with the curriculum and environment and later enrolled her son, now 4, in the program.

CANI Head Start meets educational, health, nutritional, and social service needs of low-income preschool children, ages 3 to 5, and their families in Allen, Noble, and Whitley counties. Upon enrollment, every family in the Head Start program is assigned a Family Advocate. Among other things, the Family Advocate is charged with helping families navigate through the social service system, find local resources and provide support.

Family Advocate Barb Brice was assigned to Franjessica and her family last summer. Franjessica said Barb is kind and has taught her how to connect to valuable resources. This skill, she said, should not be underestimated:

“Don’t give up...utilize your resources,” she said. “There’s a lot out there and people can help you.”

It seems Barb derives just as much satisfaction as the families who are on the receiving end.

“This is what Head Start is about,” she said about helping families become self-sufficient. “The biggest asset is the information we provide.”

That information has translated into seven Head Start parents earning their GEDs this year. It’s that personal contact that makes the difference at the end of the day.

Speaking of making a difference – Franjessica plans to continue her schooling and become a pediatric nurse. However,

life is pretty busy at the moment, as she recently became engaged. She and her fiancé plan to move to Delaware this summer for his job and Franjessica will enroll in a master’s program there.



Franjessica (left) said her aunt, also a nurse, inspired her to go into the profession. Family Advocate Barb Brice (right) is proud of her accomplishments.

# CONTENTS



## The Face of Hope

A Head Start mother exemplifies what it means to work hard and achieve goals.

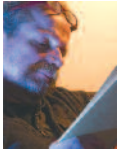
page 1



## HPRP Gets High Marks

CANI has been recognized for its stellar execution of a homelessness prevention program.

page 3



## Literacy Alliance and CANI Open Doors

Learn how a partnership between the Literacy Alliance and CANI Head Start is strengthening our community.

page 4



## Homeownership within Reach with CANI Program

A local family is able to buy a renovated home with a new CANI program.

page 5



## CANI Golf 2011

The results are in and everyone's a winner!

page 6

## July/August - 2011

Published six times a year by

**CANI (Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 10570, Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570

**Vol. 6, No. 4**

All articles and photographs by CANI Development Coordinator, 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.**

## CANI Board of Directors

Mr. Todd Fleetwood - **President**  
Mr. Randy Holler - **Vice-President**  
Mr. Tony Jeffers - **Secretary/Treasurer**  
Mr. Chip Adams, Mr. Peter Adams, Ms. Karma Austin, Mr. Jay Brown, Ms. Sheila Cuffy, Ms. Laura Dwire, Ms. Dawn Gallaway, Mr. Wes Husselman, Mr. Karl Kostoff, Ms. Alisa J. Pearson, Esq., Ms. Kelli Pursley

## CANI Management Team

Steve Hoffman **Executive Director**  
Pamela Brookshire **Director of Community Services**  
Sherry Early-Aden **Director of Administration & Development**  
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**

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**

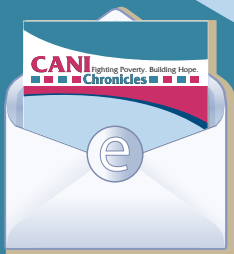
**Kosciusko**  
1515 Provident Drive  
Warsaw, IN 46580  
**574-267-2817**

## CANI Hours of Operation

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

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

**CANI WILL BE CLOSED ON JULY 4 IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY**



To RECEIVE UPDATES FROM CANI IN YOUR INBOX

CONTACT LAUREN CAGGIANO AT LAURENCAGGIANO@CANIHELP.ORG



# HPRP GETS HIGH MARKS

Well-run programs can mean better outcomes for clients. CANI is proud to tout some recent news related to quality: the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) was ranked among the top agencies in the state by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA.)

Every quarter, IHCDA submits an HPRP progress report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which reports on family, and expenditure activity, as well as housing outcomes of the participating families. This data provides information on the impact of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. CANI scored an overall grade of 94 percent. This score is the sum of several areas including accuracy and completeness in reporting and housing outcomes.

So what does this mean for the families and the community? HPRP combines housing assistance, along with case management to educate families on how to break the cycle of homelessness. HPRP is currently one funding source for CANI's Family Development program, which is a holistic approach to helping families over-

come poverty. Family Development is a voluntary, in-home program of supportive services that helps identify family strengths, desires, and needs.

Finding and maintaining safe and affordable housing is one of the first steps on the road to self-sufficiency. Family Development Services Workers work hand-in-hand with clients to make this happen. HPRP is based on a two-pronged approach, with 65 percent of the focus on rapid rehousing and 35 percent concentrated on homelessness prevention. CANI has worked with several local agencies like Charis House, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Fort Wayne Rescue Ministries, YWCA, 211, Vincent Villages, Pathfinders, and numerous others within the region on homeless concerns.

A three-year program, CANI has participated in HPRP since October 2009. To date, 215 families have received assistance in Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Wells, Steuben and Whitley counties, what IHCDA considers "Region 3."

Family Development Manager John Robb said the timing was right for a program



*Stock Photo*

CANI recently received accolades for its performance in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) As a member of the Region 3 Continuum of Care, CANI "strives to prevent and end homelessness through coordination, communication, and collaboration."

like HPRP, "because people are losing jobs and not being able to pay rent." Quality and affordable housing is hard to find. HPRP is a beacon of hope for people in need.

"It can give people a fresh start and put them back on their feet," he said.

## CANI HEAD START NOW ENROLLING

**Do you know someone who has a child between ages 3-5?**

**We may have a  
FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
for him or her!!**

CANI Head Start is a free, comprehensive development program. It meets educational, health, nutritional, and social service needs of low-income preschool children, ages 3 to 5, and their families in Allen, Noble, and Whitley counties. To qualify, families must be at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, with an exception that 10 percent may be enrolled who are considered over-income.

**For more information, contact**

**CANI Head Start**

**227 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

**(260) 420-2833**





# LITERACY ALLIANCE AND CANI OPEN DOORS

Reading is a skill many of us take for granted. But what if you're illiterate? How can you apply for a job if you simply can't read the application? Locally, the Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne provides hope for people who struggle with reading.

The Literacy Alliance collaborates with several organizations, including CANI, to provide literacy classes at various sites in Fort Wayne. The Family Literacy partnership began in 1999 helping 30 families at CANI's Head Start site at St. Peter's Catholic Church. The program moved to the CANI Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton in the fall of 2004. Fort Wayne Community Schools contributes funding for certified teachers at each site.

A CANI Family Advocate (FA) is the liaison between the Literacy Alliance and the families. The FA recruits and enrolls CANI Head Start families to participate in this voluntary program. Additionally, the FA facilitates a class twice a week, that is taught by a teacher from Fort Wayne Community Schools. The teacher works with the family on language skills, ultimately

working towards earning a GED.

The Family Literacy model includes four components: GED or English Language instruction for parents; an education program for their children (in this case Head Start); Parent and Child (PAC) time where the parents spend time in their child's classroom learning how to support their child's learning; and parent time with discussion about parenting skills, nutrition, community resources, and more.

So who are the families in this program? Many are Burmese or Hispanic, but a great deal are native English speakers. One common denominator is their need for better language skills. Pre and post assessments track their progress, or "gains" which can be astonishing at times. Case in point: Khin Htwe, a Taiwanese immigrant recently earned her citizenship with the help of the Family Literacy pro-



Stock Photo

In the United States it is estimated that 32 million adults, or about one in seven, are illiterate. Partnerships like the one between CANI and the Fort Wayne Literacy Alliance provide a chance for people who need help with reading and language skills.

gram. To date, more than 400 families have participated.

CANI Head Start Director Mary Lee Freeze is a big proponent of the program. She said she appreciates the "all encompassing" nature and approach. It is an asset to the Head Start program because it addresses the roots causes and conditions of poverty.

"If we help the parents, we help the (Head Start) children," she said.

**Low- and moderate-income Allen County residents claimed approximately \$2.5 million in tax credits this year, thanks to the Free Tax Preparation (EITC) Program coordinated by United Way of Allen County and the Volunteer Center @ RSVP. This is a 19 percent increase over last year's \$2.1 million. A total of 1,587 area residents received free tax assistance provided by dozens of IRS trained and certified tax volunteers. CANI is a member of the Financial Stability Partnership and a site for the free tax preparation.**

# HOMEOWNERSHIP WITHIN REACH WITH CANI PROGRAM

Homeownership is a slice of the American Dream. Thanks to a CANI program, one local woman is now among the 74 million homeowners in the United States.

CANI's Purchase, Rehabilitate and Resale (PRR) program is designed to provide an affordable opportunity for eligible homebuyers who can obtain financing to purchase a home. Last fall, the agency completed the renovation of two foreclosed homes located at 331 Tanglewood Drive and 211 Sara Drive in New Haven.

Monroeville native Ashley Hankins was in the market for a house when she came across the home for sale on Tanglewood Drive in New Haven. She inquired with the real estate agent, learned about CANI's involvement and soon she was on the road to becoming a homeowner.

After determining that Ashley qualified for a mortgage, CANI staff worked with her to iron out the details. April 1, 2011 was the big day. She and her son moved into a completely renovated three-bedroom ranch style home, complete with new appliances and flooring. Now, a few months later the house is



Ashley and her son are proud to pose in front of their new residence made possible through CANI's Purchase, Rehabilitate, Resale (PRR) program.

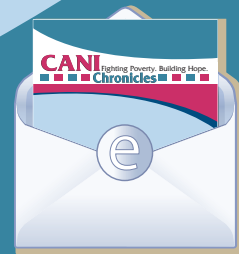
starting to feel like a home, with furniture and décor. She said her favorite part of the house is the three-season porch. She also likes the quiet and safe neighborhood and that there are several children who could be playmates for her son.

Ashley said that while her monthly mortgage payment is higher than her previous rent, she has resolved to save more money by eliminating unnecessary expenses. CANI IDA Coordinator Andrea Young works with her on budgeting and assisted her with the pre-purchase homeownership counseling. Ashley shared her dream of

going back to school once she's more financially secure.

CANI hopes to make homeownership possible for more residents in northeast Indiana. The home at 211 Sara Drive in New Haven is still for sale. Also, the agency has plans to purchase, renovate and resell other homes in northeast Indiana.

To  
RECEIVE  
UPDATES FROM  
CANI IN YOUR INBOX  
CONTACT LAUREN CAGGIANO AT  
LAURENCAGGIANO@CANIHELP.ORG





# CANI GOLF 2011 RAISES NEEDED FUNDS

CANI's supporters proved they were not fair-weather ones—literally. Despite a rain delay, teams came out for a day of fun for a worthy cause on June 9th at Noble Hawk Golf Links in Kendallville. CANI raised more than \$26,000 to put towards the cause of Fighting Poverty and Building Hope—thanks to the sponsors and golfers.

CANI would like to extend a warm thank you to all our CANI Golf sponsors and donors:

## Event Sponsor

*Do It Best Corp.*

## Corporate Sponsors

*Keller Development, Inc.  
Miller Heating Air Conditioning,  
Geothermal*

## Major Sponsors

*DeKalb Molded Plastics  
"Doc" Dancer • Hylant Group  
Lutheran Life Villages  
Meijer • NIPSCO  
Rogers Weatherization LLC  
Salin Bank • Thirteen Step House*

## Contributing Sponsors

*Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Fort Wayne Mad Ants  
Starn Heating  
& Air Conditioning Inc.  
Wipfli LLP*

## Tee/Green Sponsors

*A Plus Computers  
Allen Business Machines  
Barrett & McNagny  
Beauchamp & McSpadden, Inc.  
Classic Café • Kuhl & Grant LLP  
L & L Transportation, LLC  
Tower Bank*

Golfers from a variety of professional backgrounds came out for an afternoon of healthy competition. "Doc" Dancer took home the top prize this year. Performance Food Group (PFG) took home the "runner up" title. The "closest to the string" winner was PFG's Eric Hite and Bill Howard from Keller Development won the "closest to the pin" contest. The women's

longest drive winner was Lori Stinson of the Jean Hershberger team; the men's winner was Guy Dupuis of the Brilljant team.

Win or lose, the golfers united at the end of the day for a delicious steak dinner (steaks provided by Performance Food Group), silent auction, and awards ceremony.

## In-Kind Donors

*ADP  
Biaggi's  
Bobick's  
Body Kneads Inc.  
Cap n' Cork  
Canterbury Green Golf Course  
Champions  
Chestnut Hills  
Civic Theatre  
Cork 'n Cleaver  
Coyote Creek Golf Club  
DKM Embroidery  
Donald Ross Golf Club  
Fazoli's  
Flat Top Grill  
Fort Wayne Komet Hockey  
Fort Wayne Mad Ants  
Fort Wayne Parks and  
Recreation  
The Forum Salon & Day Spa  
Friends Too  
Frontier Communications  
Indiana Stamp  
Inventure Group*

## Jean Hershberger

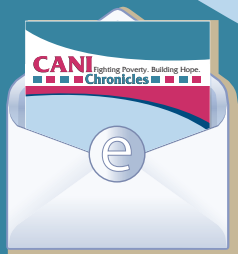
*KFC - Bluffton  
Lakeside Golf & Bowling  
L Spa Modern  
Lutheran Health Sports Center  
Mancino's Pizza & Grinders  
Meijer - Lima Road  
Nail Spirit Hair & Nail Design  
O'Daniel Motor Sales  
Paula's Restaurant & Seafood  
Market  
Pretzels, Inc.  
Performance Food Group-  
Customized Indiana  
Snyder Distributing Group  
North, Inc.  
Tanning Island  
Tilted Kilt  
Wealth By Design Capital  
Management, Inc.  
YMCA- Central Branch  
Dr. Tom Yoder, DDS*

## Cash Donors

*Classic Graphics  
Karl Kostoff*



Above: "Doc" Dancer team earned Champion status, with a score of 56.  
Right: Performance Food Group (PFG) was the runner-up team also with a score of 56. Hole 18 was used as the tie-breaker.



**To  
RECEIVE  
UPDATES FROM  
CANI IN YOUR INBOX  
CONTACT LAUREN CAGGIANO AT  
LAURENCAGGIANO@CANIHELP.ORG**

# Home For Sale

211 Sara Drive • New Haven, IN 46774

- 1344 Sq.Ft. Living Space
- 1 Car Attached Garage
- Nice Kitchen with ALL NEW cabinets, appliances & flooring!
- New carpet in living room, family room & bedrooms!
- 3 Bedrooms & 1 Bath
- BRAND NEW siding, landscaping & driveway!
- \$69,900

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

- Must meet income qualifications
- Occupy the home as their principal residence
- Able to qualify for financing acceptable to program guidelines
- Must complete CANI Home Buyer Education training
- Minimum of \$500 buyer investment required

For More Info:

Barb Cayce

260.423.3546 ext. 257

barbaracayce@canihelp.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.**

### Cash Donations

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

Rogers Weatherization LLC

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

Mr. Wes Husselman

Spiro and Anne Kostoff

### In-Kind Donations

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

Disorderly Bear Den of

Good Bears of the World

Just for Youth

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

Aaron's

Bowen Center

Fort Wayne Museum of Art

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

Ms. Melissa Baker

Ms. Nikki Geiger

Science Central

YMCA-Central Branch

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

Ms Kristin Davis

Mr. Irwin Mallin

Mr. Zack Osburn

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

African-American Historical  
Museum

Allen County Public Library

Best Western Luxbury Inn

Ms. Trisha Budd

Ms. Anitra Carroll

Ms. Rosetta Collins

Crazy Pinz

Mr. George Fields

Mr. Jerry Hartman

Ms. Diane C. Jackson

Ms. Josefina Marin

Ms. Regina Martinez

McDonald's #6657

“Thank you to everyone (at CANI). You made it possible to get the gas in my vehicle so I can find long-term employment.”  
-CANI Client

**CANI** Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.  
COMMUNITY ACTION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA  
227 E. Washington Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT WAYNE, IN  
Permit No. 1107

**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.

I would like my gift to go toward CANI's Endowment, (for gifts of \$50 or more.) Contact Jennifer Renner at (260) 399-4103 for more information.

**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](http://www.canihelp.org).