

CANI

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

Chronicles

Ask and You Shall Receive

A little kindness can go a long way.

Melissa Ormsby is a testament to the power of compassion in her life. She first came to CANI about three years ago, when applying for energy assistance.

"I had such a good experience every time," she shares. "The feeling of getting help from someone is inspiring because it's helping yourself by getting help."

That positive experience stuck with her long-term, so much that she enrolled her son Dylan at the CANI Head Start site at Ivy Tech. There she was matched with Family Advocate Carrie Goodson. Family Advocates are responsible for enrolling children in the Head Start program. This includes recruiting families, accepting applications and the supporting documentation, completing the intake process, enrollment and assigning children to a classroom. They also

conduct an average of four home visits for case management a year. They set goals with families to help them move forward.

The Head Start program proved to be more than just free pre-school for her son. Instead, it was a chance for her to expand her own horizons. She made the most of her time in the program, attending CANI-sponsored educational events and workshops, while learning about resources available in the community.

Now that her son Dylan has graduated from the Head Start program, she has more time to pursue her personal goals. She is currently studying office administration with a medical concentration at Ivy Tech. Following the two-year program she hopes to secure a position in a medical office.

In between the demands of school, she finds quality time to spend with her two children, ages 11 and 6. Looking to the

future, she said she hopes to remain in the Fort Wayne area and maintain an active role in her children's lives.

While she still struggles financially, she says she is much better off than she was a few years ago. She dreams of the day when she reaches self-sufficiency. Her advice: "(Asking for help) is not as bad as you think. The feeling of relief is greater than the anxiety."



Melissa Ormsby is determined to improve her family's life. A college degree is one way she hopes to accomplish that.

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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

Lehmburg 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

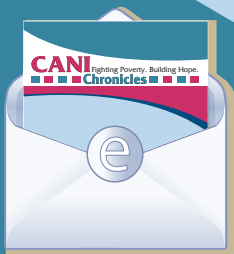
574-267-2817

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 NOV. 11TH, 24TH, 25TH, DEC. 23RD, 26TH AND 30TH.



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RALLY UNITES COMMUNITY AROUND COMMON CAUSE

What was your favorite book as a child? How did it affect you?

Reading has the power to open up new worlds. That was the premise for the 7th annual Rally to Read event, held at the Hanna-Creighton campus Sept. 17.

Studies have underlined early literacy efforts' significant role in establishing future success in school. It is imperative for a child to read at grade level in order to gain the most from what is offered in school, at home, and in the community.

"When those who are not exposed – or exposed to a lesser degree than others who may have more resources – to books and the concepts of literacy in its varying forms, that intended gain is often lost," according to Craig Nix of the Allen County Education Partnership.

Rally to Read began in 2005 when Mary Musson (Former CANI Head Start Director and current early education Instructor at Ivy Tech) convened a meeting of representatives from organizations and agencies with ties to early childhood literacy. They all sought a common goal: establish a day to pro-

mote reading/literacy development in the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood.

"I thought that literacy was something that all of the organizations had in common," says Musson. "And within a couple of months, we were the Hanna-Creighton Action Group...and Rally to Read was born!"

Representatives from Pontiac Branch Library, Urban League, CANI, Citilink, United Way, Hanna-Creighton Neighborhood Association, The Literacy Alliance, PBS-39, Early Childhood Alliance, and Allen County Education Partnership met once per month beginning in spring 2005 to plot three hours' worth of live entertainment, literacy activity booths, lunch, area author readings, giveaways, and books for those who attended.

"If memory serves me, close to 300 people – all ages – came that first year," says Nix. "Since then the Rally has attracted more than double that



Photo by: Diana Yngstrom-Bugge
CANI works with several local agencies to promote literacy. Rally to Read is just one way to promote reading as an investment in a child's future.

number, with 2009 attendance exceeding 700." This year's event drew 332 people.

It's no coincidence that the event is held in September each year. Nix explains: "The Rally committee decided to hold the event in September to help reinforce the importance of reading at the beginning of the school year, not only for the children but the entire family."

This year's theme was "Roll into a Good Book."

Write A Will Event - 2011

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.**

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Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

David Van Gilder from Van Gilder & Trzynka, P.C. will be at CANI on November 17 from 1- 4pm. Appointments can be made by calling Jennifer Renner at 260-399-4103.

Other times and locations are available throughout the community during the week of Nov 14 – 18; Call for more information.


LEAVE A LEGACY
<http://www.pgcni.org>

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE: A TRUE STIMULUS

It is obvious that child care assistance benefits parents, but there is a much larger effect that is often not mentioned or is understated.

Just as roads, airports, and buses are part of the physical infrastructure that enables citizens to get to work, child care is part of the social infrastructure that enables parents to work. Research shows that child care subsidies are an economic development investment that pays for itself in real dollars returned to the government through taxes on family earnings, employment, and the child care industry.

CANI's childcare assistance program, offered since 1997, has positively impacted the local economy on many levels. On average, the program serves more than 1700 families in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Noble, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley counties. In 2010, 6,065 children were provided quality child care in order for families to get or keep jobs or go to school.

Parents must be working, or attending an accredited school program to qualify for this program. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) allows parents the opportunity to maintain employment and complete educational goals without the overwhelming financial burden of child care costs. The family must be Indiana

residents within income guidelines and have a child below the age of 13.

In all counties, more than 70 percent of the families received assistance because of employment. (The rest are in enrolled in school.) Data on whether the employment is full time or part-time, or wages, is not available, but the investment in the local economy is astronomical. Think about the economic impact of more than 1700 jobs right here in northeast Indiana! Every dollar invested in child care returns \$1.60 to the local economy.

With record unemployment, job security is a concern. Child care vouchers help to stabilize the economy. Locally, more than \$168 million in subsidies is paid annually to state-approved childcare providers.

Parents who complete school with the help of the assistance will have greater earning potential than those



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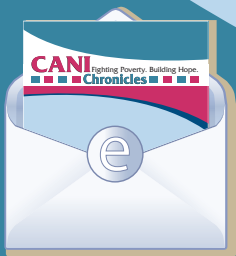
The return on investment from child care assistance has a significant impact on the local, state and national economy. CANI's child care assistance program makes it possible for parents to work or attend school.

who have no higher education. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a person with a high school diploma has a median weekly income of \$626. With a bachelor's degree, that number nearly doubles to \$1038.



Courtesy of the United Way of Allen County

The United Way of Allen County's fundraiser on Sept. 29, Power of the Purse, raised money to support early childhood education efforts in Allen County. Funds were donated to the Fort Wayne Urban League's Read 'n Rise program, SCAN's Healthy Families program and scholarships for low-income preschoolers to attend a fully accredited child care center. The \$26,600 raised for scholarships will be distributed through CANI for child care at licensed homes and centers that have achieved a score of three or four on the Paths to Quality scale.



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PARENTS RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

Pre-school programs prepare the student for kindergarten, but what about the parents? They often need just as much attention as their children to ensure success later in life.

A program in partnership between the United Way of Allen County and CANI, "Off to a Good Start" is designed to focus on three areas: literacy, concept development and health and well-being. Through this program, parents learn to interact and guide their preschool children in ways that promote their development and social and intellectual readiness for kindergarten.

So why are programs like this so important? Studies have indicated that parents' attitudes towards school and their involvement during this beginning school experience influence the extent to which parents will (or will not) successfully promote their children's educational achievement.

CANI Head Start Education Manager Deanna Backman sums up the pro-

gram's objective: "It's a parenting class to help them know what to do to get ready for kindergarten."

To that end, each session involves three interactive workshops, each with a focus, mentioned above. Following the individual workshop, parents are provided with take-home activities and materials that can be used outside the class. This in-home interaction is just as important as the parents' presence in the class.

Deanna says the class has been well-received by the parents: "Parents love it!."

There is space for 20 families per workshop. Enrollment is open to any parent in the community with an interest in learning and acquiring new skills. Workshops are held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the CANI Head Start



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CANI's programs, like Off to a Good Start, help the whole family. When parents are effective their children are more likely to succeed.

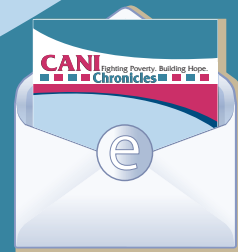
site at Hanna-Creighton, 2107 S. Hanna St in Fort Wayne. Dinner and childcare are provided. Families may call (260) 456-1576 to register. *Note: the next session will be held in the fall of 2012.*



Photo By Jennifer Renner

Misty Zent, of Bluffton, was selected by CANI's Board of Directors as the new home owner of a renovated property at 3306 McCormick Ave., generously donated by Mr. John Miller of Miller Heating, Air Conditioning, Geothermal. She sees homeownership as an opportunity to create a better life for herself and family. Standing next to Misty in this photo are John Miller and Steve Hoffman, CANI executive director.

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A TOUCH OF HOPE

Bright-eyed and energetic, Mariya Tun has the world by the tail. What most do not know is that not long ago life was a lot different for her and her family.

Less than a year ago Mariya, 34, was in a rough spot in life. Enveloped in a world of darkness, she had admitted herself into the Charis House, a shelter for women in Fort Wayne battling addiction “designed to bring God’s healing and restoration in their lives.”

Mariya credits the Charis House staff, notably Pastor Patty Crisp, for her healing and transformation. It was through their help that she overcame a vicious cycle of alcoholism, depression and hurt. During her stay she often meditated on a dream she had years ago, to start a not-for-profit to help people in need.

“God said to me: ‘you’re gonna reach out to the world.’ He was calling me,” she realized after the fact.

That call was so strong that she felt compelled to take a leap of faith and register her not-for-profit, now called Touch of Hope. The organization’s mission is “to reach out to anyone who needs help.” That help can come in many forms, including resume writing, connecting job seekers to employers and helping them find business attire.

While Mariya was busy focusing on helping others, she did

not forget to help herself. CANI and the Charis House’s work intersected when Mariya was referred to CANI’s Family Development program, a holistic case-management program designed to help families become self-sufficient through concentration on twelve life areas.

Following a two-year stay, she moved out of the Charis House with her four children, ages 16, 14, 12 and 10, and was determined to re-establish herself. Family Support Services Worker Amy Jones helped her along the way with goal-setting and reassurance.

Mariya appreciates Amy’s candid approach to case management: “We all want to hear what we want to hear. She helps me take one step at a time—all with love, protection and encouragement.”

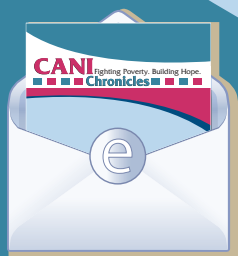
One particular success is gaining employment. The mother of four currently works in underwriting for a company in Fort Wayne. Busy with the demands of motherhood, full-time work and pursuing a bachelor’s degree, she has not lost sight of her dreams. She shared her hopes of earning a not-for-profit leadership degree and buying a home.



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Mariya wants to help others through her not-for-profit, Touch of Hope. CANI is helping her reach her goals.

In the meantime, she is focused on growing the non-profit and sharing her story through speaking engagements. Still humble, Mariya has not forgotten the purpose of Touch of Hope: “It’s not for me; it’s for everyone else.”

Her advice for someone in need of CANI’s services: “Don’t worry about what other people say. Ask...that’s what people are here for.”



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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 donations have been received since our last issue.

Private/Foundation Grants

Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne-\$2,000
Lake City Bank-\$1,000
United Way of DeKalb County-\$500

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“I saw the passion become like a volcano. It took him to a new level,” she said about her husband. “I tell people: If you want your dream to come to fruition, get on the phone and call CANI.”

-Wife of Foundations program graduate



As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider those individuals and families in our community who are struggling the most. A gift to CANI is a gift of 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.

During 2011, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne is matching dollar-for-dollar any gift to our agency endowment fund up to a total of \$10,000!

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.

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