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HEALTH CARE COVERAGE: An Essential Back-to-School Supply

Fall is a busy time as children and their families prepare to go back to school. For agencies like Brightpoint who help children and families, it's busy for us too!

This summer, Covering Kids and Families of Northeast Indiana (CKF-NEIN) at Brightpoint distributed 904 bags filled with school supplies to children in all eight counties served by this program. The goal in distributing these bags was not just to fill a need for school supplies, but also to share information and get families signed up for the free and low-cost health insurance plans that are available to them.

Covering Kids and Families Coalitions and their partners are providing an important resource on the road to good health by helping students and their families enroll in healthcare coverage. According to the recently released 2015 Indiana Because Kids Count Data Book, 8 percent of Hoosier children, approximately 130,000, have no healthcare coverage at all. Children living below 200 percent of the federal poverty

level are the least likely to have health insurance, even though they should be eligible for free or low-cost healthcare coverage through Hoosier Healthwise.

For Covering Kids and Families Indiana (CKF-IN), when it comes to healthcare coverage for kids, 100 percent is the goal. "It is a big goal – we know that, but we also know making sure every Hoosier child has healthcare coverage is too important to have a goal anything less than 100 percent" stated Susan Jo Thomas, Executive Director of Covering Kids and Families of Indiana.

CKF-IN, the Indiana School Health Network, and many schools across the state are pursuing that goal together because they know that insured children are likely to be healthier and in school ready to learn. Amanda Chappell, Program Manager for CKF-NEIN at Brightpoint, sees daily the impact of helping parents enroll their child in free or low-cost healthcare coverage. "The biggest thing we hear from the parents we help is that

For more information
or local contacts, visit
mybrightpoint.org/CKF.

**WE WANT
YOUR IDEAS!**

Investors. Developers.
Entrepreneurs. Artists.
Start-ups.

PRESIDENT'S POINTS



Steve Hoffman
President/CEO

On July 14th we lost an effort to rezone the land for our proposed housing development located

at 800 W. Rudisill Boulevard in Fort Wayne. The development, Enterprise Pointe, is a live/work space catering to entrepreneurs, small business owners and artists. Unfortunately with a “no” vote from Fort Wayne City Council on the rezoning, progress on this project came to a halt.

While rezoning was not necessary to receive the tax credits we would have used to fund Enterprise Pointe, it was necessary in order to sell them. And despite every effort to add a commitment to the land that would protect the neighborhood from undesirable uses, we failed to convince those opposed to our efforts that the rezoning was both necessary and not a threat to the neighborhood. We are saddened that the project could not move forward on this site, but we accept the decision of the city council and the opinions of neighbors who were opposed to what we were trying to do.

Despite the outcome, we have gained much through this process. We have been blessed by a wonderful group of neighborhood residents who supported us. We have strengthened our relationship with the leaders at The Summit, who are truly wonderful people with the best interests of the community in mind.

We remain committed to the objectives of Enterprise Pointe and we believe it will have a profound impact on any community where it sits. While it could be some time before we can build the opportunity for funding again, we continue to seek the perfect location. Thanks to all who were involved in helping us move one step forward — we greatly appreciate it. ▽

Here's to a Brighter Future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Hoffman', written in a cursive style.

Steve Hoffman, President/CEO



Success is Brewing!

Ben Thompson started brewing beer eight years ago after moving to Pittsburgh to go to school for airplane repair and maintenance. It was during his time in Pittsburgh that he was introduced to the culture of craft beer and home brewing.

Ben continued home brewing after he moved back to Fort Wayne and began to think about opening his own brewery. According to Ben, “Opening a brewery is a thought that at one time or another goes through the heads of all home brewers.” He has worked to make this thought a reality, in part because of his passion for brewing beer, but also because he felt Fort Wayne was missing out on enjoying local craft beers.

After completing Artlink’s Co-Starters business incubator program, Ben was ready to get brewing, but needed a little help with start-up costs. He learned about the small business loans available through the Brightpoint Development Fund and found a perfect partner for getting his business started.

“We helped him purchase his fermenter which was right around the amount that we lent him. This was a big help in getting the brewery started,” said Evan Neubacher, Brightpoint’s Lending Specialist. “He got a loan through us mainly because a lot of traditional finance avenues don’t work with startups and the interest rate we offered for the amount he needed would allow him to make money on his investment sooner.”

The idea and business model for Birdboy Brewing Company has evolved over the years since its inception. Originally Ben was going to open a brewpub, but decided to start a production-only brewery instead. Deciding to move forward with a production brewery opposed to a brewpub ultimately came down to the finances.

Opening a production-only brewery helped him start up sooner and will help in the long run by keeping overhead costs



lower. Looking back, Ben is really glad he made this decision—especially with all the brewpubs that have opened or are set to open soon. While the business model has changed, the goals for Birdboy Brewing Company haven’t. Ben’s goals are pretty straightforward: make good beer that people in Fort Wayne can enjoy and help to put Fort Wayne on the map for craft beer enthusiasts.

With his first batch of Birdboy beer now available at the Hoppy Gnome in Fort Wayne and the Trion Tavern in New Haven, Ben is excited to be meeting his goals and we are glad we could be here to help. 🍀

“Opening a brewery is a thought that at one time or another goes through the heads of all home brewers.”

-Ben Thompson





Brightpoint Growing AND On the Move

Brightpoint is excited to announce the expansion of our Child Care Assistance program into six new counties. Effective Monday, September 28, 2015, we will be the new intake agency for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) in St. Joseph, LaPorte, Marshall, Fulton, Pulaski and Starke counties.

Brightpoint has been the intake agent for the Child Care Development Fund in Northeast Indiana for 25 years. “We look forward to assisting more parents who are working or getting an education by helping them with child care expenses as we expand into this region,” says Lesa Cassel, Family Support Services Manager.

We are working hard to make this a seamless transition for those already receiving assistance in these counties. The only difference for families on the program and their child care providers is that now they will contact someone at a Brightpoint office to apply, schedule appointments, submit documentation, report changes, and ask questions in regards to the program.

Questions regarding the transition can be directed to the Family Support Department at Brightpoint by calling 1-800-589-3506 and following the prompts for child care.

Effective September 28, the main office for this region will be located at the Brightpoint office in South Bend. ▼

BRIGHTPOINT

919 E. Jefferson Suite 107
South Bend, IN 46617

Phone: 1-800-589-3506

**Dedicated Appointment Line
open 24 hours a day for all
of Brightpoint’s service area:**
1-800-589-2264

Fax: 1-844-510-5775

Email: childcare@mybrightpoint.org

**Additional Brightpoint office
for this region is located at:**
301 E. 8th St. Suite 107
Michigan City, IN 46360

MORE LOCATION NEWS

In addition to the expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program into a new region, Brightpoint has two new office locations in our service area.

In Elkhart, we are pleased to have found a new home for our office following a fire at our previous location. And the office in Steuben County has moved effective September 10.

Elkhart

Poplar Court
1900 Berry St. Suite H
Elkhart, IN 46514

Steuben County

213A Martha St.
Angola, IN 46703

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Child Care Assistance

WHAT IT IS

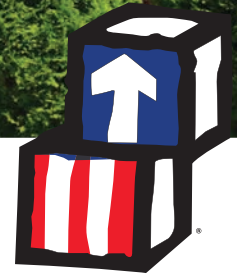
A program that helps families afford quality child care for children younger than 13 years of age.

WHO IT HELPS

Parents who are working, going to school, or receiving job training. Household income must be 119-127 percent of the federal poverty guideline based on the last 30 days of income.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND HELP

Visit one of our offices or go online to get an application. Once you receive an open enrollment letter from Brightpoint, schedule an appointment to be considered for assistance.



Head Start Goes Back To School

Brightpoint Head Start classes resumed for the 2015/16 school year on August 31. All classes were fully enrolled with a total of 585 students. As is always the case for the Head Start program, we will continue to seek waiting list applicants to fill spots as they become available throughout the year.

During the past year, Head Start parents were surveyed about their preferences and overwhelmingly there was a desire for full-day classes. This has led to a change in the makeup of classes this year with the majority of them being full-day (or six-hour) classes. This was also a request of parents coming to the program through On My Way Pre-K.

One Brightpoint Head Start site had a change of location for the new year. The Head Start site on Werling Drive replaces the site that was located at St. Henry's. The Werling Drive site is in the Timothy L. Johnson Academy building—formerly Village Elementary—a part of the East Allen County School District.

There will be three classrooms at Werling Drive: two full-day/part-year classrooms and one classroom with a four-hour morning session and a four-hour afternoon session with different children in each session. This new location offers Brightpoint a quality learning environment in which to continue to serve approximately 70 children and their families. ▾

ON MY WAY PRE-K

There are 22 children enrolled through the On My Way Pre-K voucher program for the 2015/16 program year at the following sites:

- East Wayne **1**
- Hanna Creighton **12**
- Salvation Army **5**
- Werling **2**
- Temple **2**

AmeriCorps Program Ends On A “Bright” Note

After three amazing years of service to our community, Brightpoint's AmeriCorps program, Brightpoint Corps, concluded this August. Since the start of the Brightpoint Corps program in 2013, 30 members have participated and fulfilled more than 30,000 hours of community service. Throughout the three years, Brightpoint Corps members have collectively improved the lives of more than 13,000 community members and recruited more than 430 volunteers to assist with capacity building efforts.

Brightpoint Corps members have impacted families and individuals through financial literacy, literacy, and access to

healthcare. Members have met AmeriCorps program goals to:

- Move communities forward;
- Create pathways for members;
- Provide members with money for education; and
- Foster an appreciation for citizenship.

We are pleased to have been a part of the AmeriCorps program and wish all of the members of Brightpoint Corps a bright future!



See photos of Brightpoint Corps members from all three years of the program on page 7.

MISSION MOMENT

Pearlette Springer

*Head Start Family Advocate
in Columbia City*

LENGTH OF TIME AT BRIGHTPOINT

Almost four years

OTHER POSITIONS HELD

Covering Kids & Families
Program Assistant

MISSION MOMENT

Watching a parent transform
throughout the course of a school year.



At the beginning of the year, I had a parent who was very withdrawn. She brought her child to school every day, but didn't initiate any interactions with the teachers, parents or other staff members. She spoke when spoken to, but answered most questions with a "yes," "no" or "I don't know."

I purposely interacted with her whenever I saw her. I consistently and continually invited her to join us for the parent meetings, family activities, and assist in classroom. I also engaged the other Head Start staff members to join me in this effort. Slowly, but surely, she began to get involved. First she assisted in the classroom. Then she joined us for the monthly family activities and then she started attending the parent meetings.

To my surprise, when it was time to plan our end-of-year event, she was very much involved. She participated in the planning process, set-up and clean-up, picking up the supplies and food, and actively engaged with other parents and their children. As I watched her interactions with other parents at the event, it brought tears to my eyes as I thought back on how far she had come.

Today, she is a Brightpoint staff member!



THANK YOU NIP!

Home Improvement Assistance

The Brightpoint Development Fund has partnered with four Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis member banks – 1st Source Bank, Lake City Bank, Old National Bank, and Star Financial Bank – to help low- and moderate-income homeowners access the Neighborhood Impact Program (NIP). NIP provides funding of up to \$10,000 per household to help individuals and families make necessary repairs to their homes to help keep them safe and retain their value. Common repair needs that NIP can help with include: roofs, gutters and downspouts, HVAC, water heating, septic/well/sewer, windows, doors, siding, basement waterproofing, and insulation.

To be eligible for NIP, applicants must have household incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income for their household size and county of residence, have owned and lived in their home for at least 18 months, be current on mortgage, insurance, and tax obligations, and have a clean title to the home. Households that receive a NIP award are subject to a five-year restrictive lien during which time some of the program proceeds may need to be paid back if the home is sold, and there are fees for administrative, title, recording, and inspection work. However, the program can allow homeowners to complete substantial repair work for a fraction of what it would normally cost.

NIP is available in the markets that Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis member institutions serve. Not all banks that we work with cover all of our counties, but between the four of them, our whole service area is included.

As of August 2015, Brightpoint has assisted five households in receiving a combined \$34,855 to offset home repair costs. With the high demand for this program, the initial annual funding for NIP was exhausted statewide in August, but more funds are expected to become available by fall. Development Fund staff are currently filling a waiting list for households that wish to apply for funding when it is available again. **For more information, please contact Sherry Early-Aden at 260-423-3546 ext. 201.** ♡

CONTINUED FROM COVER

they are less worried—they have peace of mind. They can get sports physicals, well-child visits and immunizations done. If their child needs glasses, they can afford them. If their child gets hurt, they are covered.”

Dr. Jerome Adams, Health Commissioner, also recognizes that Back to School is a great time to think about insurance. “The Indiana State Department of Health has been happy to work with our partners on these Back-to-School campaigns for several years and we will continue to do so to help create healthy environments

in schools and communities.”

Licensed Indiana Navigators at CKF-NEIN provide free help at Brightpoint. Chappell reports, “Parents really appreciate getting help from a licensed navigator so they don’t have to figure it all out on their own. They know they can ask questions and get support.” CKF-NEIN and its partners are helping educators and parents get ready for a new school year by assisting families in signing up for affordable healthcare all year long at local offices. They want to make sure students get covered and stay covered. ▾

Brightpoint Scrapbook



1. AmeriCorps members from the class of 2013 doing a service project at Community Harvest Food Bank
2. In 2014, AmeriCorps members Kelsey and Andrea helped out at the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service
3. Erin and Darnesha, 2015 AmeriCorps members, have fun while working at an outreach event
4. AmeriCorps Members from the class of 2015 take a break from their service project.
5. Staff members from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) “lived” a month in poverty with a Poverty Simulation facilitated by Brightpoint on Aug. 11, 2015 in Indianapolis
6. IHCDA staff members role playing families in the Poverty Simulation discuss their circumstances.

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[@MyBrightpoint](https://twitter.com/MyBrightpoint)



P.O. Box 10570 | 227 E. Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46853-0570



For more information visit the LEAVE A LEGACY® website. www.pgcni.org/

WRITE A WILL WEEK

LEAVE A LEGACY® is a public awareness program sponsored by the National Committee on Planned Giving to benefit all types of charitable causes and organizations. Its purpose is to inspire people to make a charitable gift.

In Northeast Indiana, LEAVE A LEGACY® is promoted by the Planned Giving Council of NE Indiana through Write A Will week. This is a series of events to promote awareness about the need to have a will and the importance of giving to charity. Through the generosity of partner organizations, like Brightpoint, and 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.

For 2015, Write A Will week is Oct. 19 – 23. Brightpoint will have an attorney at our office on October 20th from 1 – 4 p.m. Contact Jennie Renner at Brightpoint for more information or to setup your appointment at 260-423-3546, ext. 286.

