



*Holiday 2021 Edition*

## CCH NEWS

The latest news from Citizens Concerned for the Homeless

### *30 Years of Service*



'TIS THE SEASON. Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings from your friends at CCH. Another year has gone by, and CCH and all of our programs continue to use safe protocols to keep everyone healthy through this pandemic. Our programs continue to flourish. Sand Castle Shelter provided shelter and case management for families and single women. Keys to Hope Community Resource Center partnered with Interfaith Community PADS to provide 24/7 services to our homeless population. Grace Learning Center became the epicenter for CCH programming, providing life skills training and classes to our Sand Castle and Keys to Hope participants to give

them their best opportunity to attain sustainable self-sufficiency. Our Housing Assistance Program provides first month's rent to graduating participants through our partner, Homeward Bound, Inc. Our Food Rescue Initiative provided 800,000 pounds of food to 34 CCH Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen partners throughout LaPorte County. We work under a true community collaboration called Collective Impact because it truly takes a village. Five programs which provide services and resources to struggling families, men and women.

We ask if you have it in your heart to help, to make a donation of any size to CCH. See Page 8 for how to do so. The holiday season, special for most, is a difficult period for our participants. Please help us give them not only the services and resources we provide but also something to make their holiday a little brighter. Thank you for the support this community provides us year round!

Jim Musial, Executive Director



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# FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE (FRI)

## Feeding LaPorte County through Collective Impact

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations have responded to meet basic needs of the community: shelter, healthcare, and food, among others. CCH was already conducting food rescue for Feeding America, but these multiple collaborations resulted in CCH's distribution of nearly two million pounds of food during the COVID crisis.

Earlier this year, CCH partnered with United Way and Purdue Northwest to not only use their facilities (PNW) to host the event, but to collaborate with the students and faculty of the Social Work Program from the Department of Behavioral Services at PNW. This partnership allowed the students to see first-hand the face of need, the impact of service and the gratitude of families requiring this assistance. It also shows the power of collaborations by making good services better ones. It also provided an opportunity for the Social Work Students to take what they have learned in classes about the importance of advocacy, volunteerism, social justice and civic engagement to the community in a tangible way.”=

During the event at the Dworkin Center on the PNW campus in Westville, United Way, Food Bank of Northern Indiana, Farmers to Families Program, CCH and PNW presented the largest event yet, nearly 26,000 pounds of food.





# SAND CASTLE SHELTER



## The Road Home for 'H' and her daughter



H's journey home began several states away. She and her daughter returned to Michigan City looking for a fresh start in her home town. H hit the ground running, finding employment immediately! H was also able to secure daycare with Miss Van Buren at Kids R Kids Daycare. Per Sand Castle requirements, H started working and saving 75% of her net income for future housing needs. H also attended the three-hour Budgeting & Self Sufficiency Workshop, making her eligible to receive assistance with first month's rent. H obtained housing through her own hard work and diligence and was able to leave the shelter within 30 days, just like she said on her first day here! H and her daughter were able to rest easily on brand new beds purchased at Captain Ed's furniture through a sub-program called 'Floor No More'. CCH Executive Director, Jim Musial created this program to ensure participants graduating to housing do not have to sleep on the floor.

## Girl Scouts supporting Sand Castle

Sand Castle Shelter is blessed with many community partners and friends, Rhonda Graves being one of them. She brought troops 30271 and 00428 from New Prairie schools to Sand Castle. The troops came in costume and passed out candy to our children. Everyone had a wonderful day and we were shown, once again, how much the community cares about our families and the mission of CCH.





# GRACE LEARNING CENTER

## Working Wednesdays at GLC!

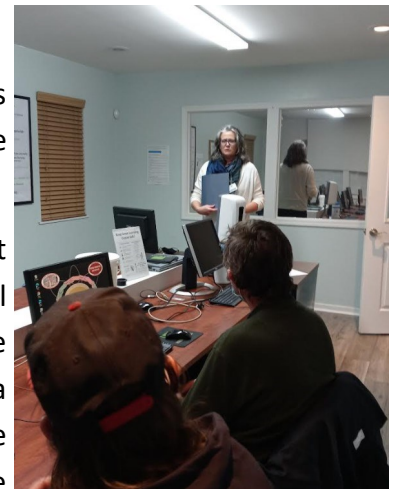
Self-sufficiency begins when an individual believes he or she can stand on their own two feet.

At Grace Learning Center, we strive every day to provide the tools and resources for our clients that lead to self-sufficiency, with the power to sustain that independence.

That's why we have created 'Working Wednesdays'.

With collaboration from our community partners, our targeted Wednesday class series now offer all the tools needed to teach participants—and members of the community—how to find, land, and keep the job of their dreams.

The series begins at 1:45pm in GLC's computer lab, with 'Computer Basics', taught by Lisa Sharp from Goodwill Workforce Development. Lisa assesses student's skill levels with computers, and designs a teaching plan to help each one become more tech savvy. Some students learn how to set up a Gmail account and create a Google Docs account that stores information wherever they may go. Others are already taking courses for a Google certification, allowing for work at home options once they are ready.



At 2:30pm, Mary Foell takes over the classroom, to teach students how to dress for success during a job interview and how to prepare for the interview, with her 'InWorks/WorkReady' class. For those who have been out of the job sector for a while, explaining gaps in one's work history or resume can be intimidating, but Mary teaches applicants how to address these questions with ease.

Directly following InWorks/WorkReady (at 3:30pm) are two new classes to the series that rotate each month: Critical Thinking Skills and Basic Math for Manufacturing. Critical Thinking teaches applicants how to negotiate and handle difficult conversations in the workplace to avoid confrontation. Basic Math for Manufacturing brushes up basic skills for those who are interested in working in a factory setting.

Our partnerships with Goodwill Industries and Purdue Extension are invaluable to teaching clients how to get back on their feet and become self-sustainable once again. If you know of someone who needs to brush up on their computer, resume, interview or math skills, tell them about GLC's 'Working Wednesday' series. For more information, call us at (219) 879-6788 or email: [gracelearningcentermc@gmail.com](mailto:gracelearningcentermc@gmail.com).



# KEYS TO HOPE



## From homeless to housing in 90 days; the story of 'A'

'A' came to us in May of this year, after being displaced due to a family situation. She felt alone and needed support, but we saw something very special in her that deserved to be fostered.

Within days of entering our program, 'A' began looking for a job and found one. She also began studying for her driver's license and continuing her education. 'A' never let her circumstances dictate her attitude: even in the most challenging of times, she brought a smile to all who knew her in the shelter. She was committed to finding housing and proving to herself—and us—that she could be self-sustainable.

Exactly 90 days after entering our program, 'A' moved into her new apartment. She met her goals quickly and without hesitation, and still checks in with us on a weekly basis to reassure our staff she's doing well on her own. We had no doubt she would be successful, and look forward to seeing what she does next!



## Welcome home, Toni Mandeville!

In our last newsletter, we told you about the sign that hangs in the lobby of Keys to Hope. That sign, welcoming members of the Armed Services experiencing homelessness, was gifted to CCH on June 9th, 2015, by an intern named Toni Mandeville. Toni was front and center for the ribbon-cutting that day, and it was her way of welcoming the building to Franklin Street and Michigan City.



The thing about Keys to Hope is, we're all about coming full-circle. When Toni was offered the opportunity to return to KTH this year as our Program Coordinator, she couldn't say 'yes' fast enough.

"In 2015, I wasn't ready to take the helm yet", Toni said. "I wanted to go out into the big world and learn more before coming back to the organization".

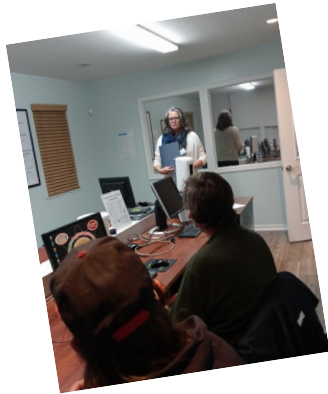
In September of this year, Toni came full-circle and returned 'home' to Keys to Hope.

There are remnants from Toni's past throughout all our buildings. At our sister building, Grace Learning Center, there is hand-painted artwork in the children's' room, designed by that intern many years ago, who is now an integral part of the core management team.

Toni brings a wealth of experience to her new position, and jumped in with both feet, ready to serve our clients and the community. With her experience as a recovery mentor and addictions' counselor, Toni works with participants in the throws of active addiction, utilizing compassion to get them through their darkest hours. As a mental health counselor, she is readily able to identify challenges requiring immediate behavioral health intervention. From her time at Community Corrections and LaPorte County Drug Court, she is versed in working with individuals who have criminal and substance-abuse histories and are trying to re-enter society. As a former intern, Toni understands the CCH philosophy of Organizational Collective Impact, and utilizes her vast connections within the region to help our clients meet their goals towards sustainable self-sufficiency every day.



# CCH IN ACTION



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# HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In late 2019, CCH partnered with local non-profit Homeward Bound, Inc. to form CCH's Housing Assistance Program. With a very generous donation from the Huizenga Foundation, CCH is able to graduate participants to permanent housing with help in the way of first month's rent. This is accomplished as our participants work the case management program established for them and if they achieve the following three primary goals. First, they must have sustainable income to pay their rent. Second, they must save enough to pay their security deposit and all utility deposits. Finally, they must complete a three hour Self-Sufficiency Workshop. All three pre-conditions must occur to qualify.

## AGENCY WISH LIST

### *Paper Products:*

Bathroom tissue  
Paper towels  
Kleenex  
Plastic storage bags  
Aluminum foil  
Plastic wrap  
Kitchen garbage bags (Tall-13 gallon)  
School supplies for all ages

### *Cleaning Supplies:*

Disinfectant wipes/spray  
Multipurpose cleaner  
Bathroom cleaner  
Furniture polish  
Glass cleaner

### *Baby Products:*

Diapers, all sizes  
New bottles  
Wipes  
Lotion/powder  
Sippy cups

### *Furniture:*

All types of household furniture

### *Laundry Supplies:*

Laundry detergent  
Bleach

### *Gift Cards:*

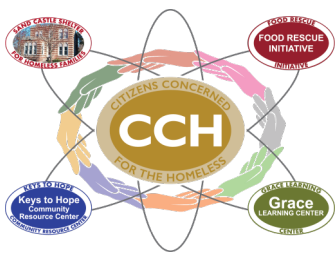
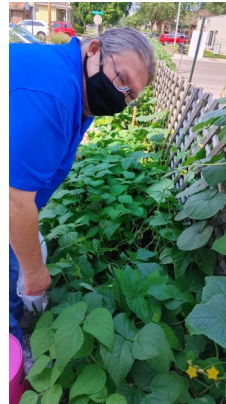
Walmart  
Meijer  
Lowes  
Menards  
Gas cards

### *Household Supplies:*

Silverware  
Dishes: bowls, plates  
Coffee Pots  
Crock Pots  
Toasters  
Kitchen towels/wash cloths  
Pots and pans  
Glasses/cups  
Mops/brooms



# 30 Years of Service



**Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc.**

Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families,  
Grace Learning Center, Keys to Hope Community

Resource Center

PO Box 8612 Michigan City, IN 46361

219-879-2552 / mchomeless@ameritech.net

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**30 Years of Service**

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