

# KIDS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES BACK TO SCHOOL. WE'VE BEEN STUDYING TOO!

Partnering. Preparing. Providing.



## Organizational Insight

Dear Friends of CCH, Our Executive Director and Directors: Jim, Kristen, and Mike, have always been lifelong learners, and as our community shifts and changes, as well as state and federal legislation, the three have been keeping their ears to the ground in order to stay ahead of the curve.

They are working tirelessly to ensure that which has been entrusted to us, leads to sustaining reduction in the number of homeless and poverty. CCH does this through continuous professional development, attending community meetings, and participating in collective impact- making sure we do not duplicate services and instead partner our participants with agencies in the county that help all of us reach self-sufficiency goals quickly and efficiently.

To further help us reach these goals and show your support of our efforts, please consider donating online, via return envelope, or via our upcoming **Shopping Cart Parade** in an effort to raise money to fight homelessness. We fielded 25 teams and raised \$12,049 which was 20% higher than ever before. We were very successful and all participants had a great time. This year's Shopping Cart Parade is scheduled for **Saturday September 17th on Franklin Street in Michigan City**. Registration begins at 9:00 am in St Paul Church parking lot (8th & Franklin St.), and the parade begins at 11:00 am. Participants have up to two hours to decorate a shopping cart, dress in costumes, and just have a great family day.

We hope you will be a sponsor and help our cause by either donating funds and/or decorating a shopping cart, raising funds, and joining the parade. Please register online at the Unity Foundation Website [www.ufc.net/homewardboundwalk](http://www.ufc.net/homewardboundwalk).

*Partnering with community difference makers, preparing participants for financially stable lives, and providing opportunities for personal growth are fundamentals within our Citizens Concerned for the Homeless organization.*

*Through these, we are witnesses to the sustaining victory over homelessness and poverty.*



Helping La Porte County through Emergency Housing, Education, & Resources Since 1992

Citizens Concerned  
for the Homeless,  
Inc.  
Fall 2016

# Sand Castle Shelter

by Jim Musial

## 2016 GOLF OUTING

**O**n August 14, the Third Annual Tin Cup Golf Outing, organized by the employees of the South Shore Railroad and Sand Castle Shelter, was held at the beautiful Legacy Hills Golf Course in La Porte. It was a glorious day filled with friends, fun and laughter for the benefit of Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families and Citizens Concerned for the Homeless. This year featured twenty five foursomes and a spectacular weather! Event and Hole Sponsors included Von Tobel Lumber, Captain Ed's, Duneland Fine Homes, Kent Heating and A/C, DeVries Firestone, Parkison and Hinton, Horizon Trust & Investment Management, Exchange Club of Michigan City, Blue Chip, Pella Windows, Pack-Man's Pizza, Un N' Smoke BBQ, Overboard, Victory Lane and Farm Bureau Insurance. Also thanks to the dozens of local businesses who donated prizes and other contributions to make this event a very special one. A very special thank you and shout out to Elissa Affeld who acted as our event photographer and all of the other men and women who volunteered to help cook, set up and clean up, we love you all. But most of all TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY who joined us to celebrate our programs and our mission.

## COORDINATED ACCESS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**S**and Castle Shelter is thrilled to announce its latest partnership. After two years of discussion, the first two families have moved from Sand Castle Shelter to "The Bridge", a 15 unit apartment complex and program center owned by Stepping Stone Shelter. As a coordinated access partnership, Sand Castle will offer smoking cessation and general health and wellness classes and will refer qualified families as well as



*Keys to Hope Volunteers used brut and customer service to make Sandcastle's Golf Outing a big success. From left to right: Jeffrey, Mike, Ken, Jim, Derrick, and Lawrence.*

single women to the Bridge for longer term housing. This will permit our graduating residents to secure affordable housing while still receiving the type of structure and programing they had at Sand Castle Shelter. This new partnership is an exciting "next step" for our graduates!

## SUCCESS STORY

**S**ix months ago, an angry, frightened and frustrated woman enrolled at SCS She was just released from jail with a felony record and her one year daughter placed with a relative under the authority of CPD. A bad lawyer and a severe learning disability coupled her problems. SCS partnered with Child Protective Services, Keys Counseling, Catholic Charities, Grace Learning Center and Stepping Stone Shelter to help this deserving young lady. In her time at SCS, she regained custody of her 2 year old daughter, she got a local job

(hospitality),she saved over a thousand dollars and obtained permanent supportive housing through our new partnership with The Bridge here in Michigan City. A great example of determination and program excellence by providing more expansive services through Coordinated Access.

### FUN FACTS:

Fiscal year just ended... 53 families and 155 individuals served, 85% graduated to permanent housing, 70% had increased income and the average stay at SCS was 39 days.



# Grace Learning Center

by Kristen Patterson

## SUCCESS: COMMUNITY PARTNERING FOR THE COMMUNITY GOOD

United Way has been a longtime advocate for Citizens Concerned for the Homeless and for La Porte County as a whole.

Two years ago, they asked Grace Learning Center, READ La Porte County, and the Michigan City Public Library to work together even closer than we already had been.

From those meetings, we took on the task of helping employers gain quality employees by offering practice tests and tutoring for some of Michigan City's top employers.

Though pieces were in place, none of our agencies were seeing much traffic to help until this past year.

This past winter, the City of Michigan City under the leadership of the Human Right's Department asked us to hold tutoring sessions for the upcoming Indiana Plan test. Through that process, we saw 9 people come to sessions and prepare to pass the test.

After that success, again, another lull until mid-summer when WorkOne sent a client to Grace Learning Center to beef up his resume.

While assisting with his resume, he stated that he had just applied and had a successful phone interview with one of the companies for which we prepared the practice test. We asked if he was ready for the test; he said no. We told him about our practice test and tutoring; he took us up on it; he took the test, passed it, and got hired in. He started work this past week!

## TYPES OF CLASSES

Grace Learning Center has seen tremendous change over the past five years of its existence. We have grown from tutoring, budgeting, and banking to 17 participants the first year, to having now over 1,200 La Porte County residents participating in 6 regular classes offered at various times throughout the month.

We currently offer:

- Basic Computer Skills Class
- Resume Writing
- Job Searching
- Job Preparation
- Budgeting
- Banking

We also host events that help individuals prepare for college and save money.

All classes are free of charge, and interested individuals can see our calendar posted at [www.citizens4homeless.org](http://www.citizens4homeless.org) or go to our Facebook page.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| GLC FAST FACT         |  |
| Resumes are our Forte | Over the course of a year, GLC's staff and interns help to write over <b>150 resumes</b> |

## GARDEN IN BLOOM

Girl Scouts from Troop 30304 have become a stable force at Grace Learning Center over this summer and into this school year.

Troop leader, Amy Mark, and the other incredible moms have allowed their daughters to serve us while earning their badges.

One Girl Scout, Madeline, has put in endless hours to help in our garden to increase Food Security on the Westside. First she came to help plan, prepare, and

plant this year's garden simultaneous to the efforts being done by our Job Preparation and Retention participants. After the initial plantings were in place, Madeline came twice a week to water, weed, plant, and monitor the growth of the garden. She even trekked over to our hopeful 10<sup>th</sup> Street garden to do some reconnaissance, measure garden plots, and weed.

She painted labels so we could track the placement of plants and hulled and shoveled dirt with energy and zeal. She is a multi-talented young lady, and we are excited for her bright future.



Madeline painted rocks to label the veggies



Planting the fall garden

## KTH CELEBRATES

CCH WELCOMES MIKE KILBOURNE AS KEYS TO HOPE DIRECTOR. After a three month search, Citizens Concerned for the Homeless is proud to announce the appointment of Mike Kilbourne as its new Director of the Keys to Hope Community Resource Center.

In January 2016, Mike began coordinating the Street Outreach Program for Keys to Hope, working alongside Ed Seal of the Swanson Center, engaging social service agencies, businesses, pastors, community leaders and those in poverty. Mike believes that partnerships are the best way to help the marginalized of any community.

# Keys to Hope CRC

by Michael Kilbourne

## MICHIGAN CITY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

This celebration of chamber music comes but once a year, and in 2016 several of our participants assisted in facility preparation as part of the Keys to Hope Volunteer Corps. Nic Orbovich, the Chair of the MCCMF understands the importance of making this event available to the community, so there is no charge to attend any of the shows to see these amazing musicians perform.

Two KTH Participants were stage hands throughout the week of the festival, working closely with some of the best chamber musicians in the region and helping the show to go smoothly. Through the Volunteer Program the homeless are connecting to the community in meaningful ways, breaking down negative stereotypes, and building positive relationships.



## WHERE DO THE HOMELESS DWELL?

KTH is gearing up the Street Outreach team for the Fall and Winter months. With the experienced help of Ed Seal, of the Swanson Center PATH Outreach program and Mike Kilbourne of KTH, we will cast a wide net across La Porte County for the second year in a row. Successful participants in the KTH program will assist in our outreach efforts as we connect with people who are living outdoors, and those who are marginalized and under-served. Our team connects people who are homeless to the resources they need to become self-sufficient!

## WHO ARE THE "KEYS"?

Keys to Hope is starting a Men's Choir! With the help of our friend Michelle Alexander, participants in the Keys to Hope program will be practicing once a week, honing their skills for the Songs of Giving Hearts concert in November. This choir will be called the "Keys", and excitement is already building. The idea of a Homeless Men's Choir is cutting edge. With Michelle's help, the "Keys" will put on an amazing show. Stay tuned for more information...



*Want to contact us about something you see?*

## CCH Organization Information

### Our Board of Directors

Tom McCormick, President

Rachel Saxon, VP

Amy Penrod, Secretary

Joshua Moran, Treasurer

Michael Bergerson

Lila Hakim

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For more information and the latest news, check out: [www.citizens4homeless.org](http://www.citizens4homeless.org)  
Or, even better, "Like" our pages on Facebook!

