



Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc. Spring 2015

HELPING LA PORTE COUNTY THROUGH EMERGENCY HOUSING AND EDUCATION SINCE 1992

IN THIS ISSUE

What's new with CCH?

NOT NEW, BUT TRIED AND

TRUE As our partners, you clearly have a heart for the disenfranchised, and we are continuously overwhelmed by our community support and assistance. Every week, we get clothing, cleaning supplies, and calls asking how people can help.

Though Jim and Kristen are relatively new directors, they have gotten to know good citizens, community partners, and the clients in need rather well. Each day brings new obstacles and hurdles for our friends who have found themselves in need of someone and some service to help bring them up out of the pits.

We, as an organization, are seen as connectors to support, and hope for that matter. We cannot and should not do it alone, and are thankful for our friends.

Time after time, the smiles and glistening eyes of returned hope are what push us on and on. When hope looks bleak, we pull our heads together and are stubborn enough not to settle till help is found.

Sometimes all it takes is a phone call, while other times, clients seem like they

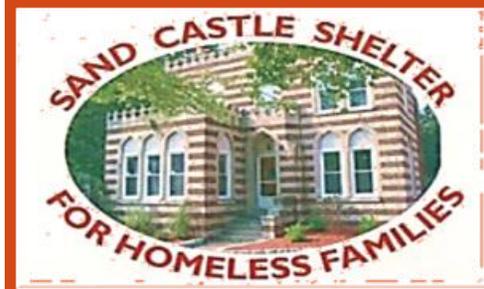
will be fine, and yet end up back at our doors for one reason or another.

CCH can be counted on, and that's what the community, as a whole, recognizes. We are most thankful, that through your support, we have been able to be that steady hand in time of need.

KEYS TO HOPE IS BUSY!

How wonderful it has been to see the men and women who will benefit from Keys to Hope already volunteering, giving back, and taking ownership over the facility. Over 90 hours of combined labor have been tallied up in painting and cleaning.

On top of that, our builders have gone above and beyond to ensure we have the best built spot in town. Hope you decide to drop by once our doors open.



Sand Castle Shelter (SCS) News

Super star donations and new shelter successes!



Grace Learning Center (GLC) News

Tutoring Successes, Interns, and Volunteering Opportunities

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CCH DONATION FAST FACT

Consider bringing gently used clothing and household items to Sand Castle or Grace Learning Center.

Grace Learning Center can always use coffee and sugar!

Sand Castle Shelter News

by Jim Musial

SCS YEAR END REVIEW

As we have begun 2015 with a flurry of activities, it is good to reflect on the blessings the year just ended had brought us. As always, we begin with recognizing our families. In 2014, forty five families graced our shelter with their average stay being 46 days. During this time, nearly 70% of our residents increased their income base while residing at SCS, mostly due to securing new jobs, and over 70% graduated to permanent private housing.



Our programs focus on providing tools to help our residents return to self-sufficiency, by finding jobs and securing housing. During their residency with SCS, the residents also work on several other areas, health insurance, transportation, education and emotional stability, just to name a few. They achieve their goals because of their hard work, coupled with the wonderful opportunities to

succeed provided by our community partners. The Grace Learning Center, Work One and IMPACT provide job searching guidance, resume building and job training. Housing Opportunities and its Rapid Rehousing Program provide matching dollars for rent assistance as well as assistance in finding clean, safe, affordable housing. HealthLinc and Healthy Communities/ Covering Kids and Families provide our residents enrollment assistance and help them find the right provider based on their income and circumstances. We partner with Michigan City Area Schools who provide tutors who work with our children two times a week. Indiana University, Purdue North Central and Ivy Tech provides interns who assist our residents with their programs of growth.

Purdue University Extension provides a nutritionist who teaches a class on cooking healthy for the family.

Sand Castle Shelter and our families are truly blessed because of the cooperative effort of many. 2014 brought new programs, such as Flight School, our cognitive behavioral therapy and emotional resiliency class taught by local LCSW Michelle Alexander.

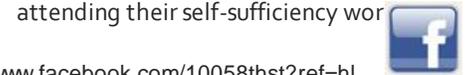
SCS is confident 2015 will bring even

better success stories and more families returning to self-sufficiency

SUCCESS STORIES

A single 32 year old woman, 5 months pregnant with 2 daughters, enrolled at SCS. During her stay at SCS, she secured a job at Blue Chip Resort and found an affordable apartment. With the help of Housing Opportunities and their Rapid Rehousing Program, she received rental assistance for several months. She received matching credits for all of the classes she attended at the Grace Learning Center.

A single mom and her three young children enrolled at SCS just before Christmas. Mom signed up at the IMPACT office, and split her time job searching at IMPACT and at the Grace Learning Center. It took a little while, but she secured two part time positions with sufficient income to support her new household. She secured an apartment in town and received a stove from our partner Marv LaRue at the New Carlisle Community Resource Center. She was able to obtain her first month's rent through our partnership with Catholic Charities after attending their self-sufficiency work



<https://www.facebook.com/10058thst?ref=hl>

Grace Learning Center News

by Kristen Patterson

Hair Cuts, Hot Wings, Cupcakes, and Coffee

GLC would never pretend to be anywhere without the generous community. This past quarter saw the Hair Cuttery of Chesterton and MC teaming up to give over 4 hours of their time which tallied up to 49 free haircuts for the at-risk community.

In order to make the holidays great, Roxanne, GLC's Administrative Assistant, pounded the pavement and solicited donations from our community friends.



Our community rocks! Pictured are a few donors: Uptown Cakery & Buffalo Wild Wings.

Meijer, Wal-Mart, Lakeshore Foods, Holly's, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Uptown Cakery, as well as CCH board members were eager donors and made the celebration an absolute hit.

They Liked Us So Much, They Came Back!

Purdue North Central has given GLC the gift of talented Behavior Science interns. GLC had 2, those 2 came back, and now we have a total of 3. Through them, GLC has expanded the number of clients that can be served and the number of Life Skills classes that can be offered.

For Spring, one will be teaching a couponing class and other "pop up" healthy living classes while the other two will be facilitating month-long support group sessions with some of our favorite regulars.

All interns have proven their weight in gold helping clients on an individual level and our staff on a management level.

Recent Successes

"J" and "R" are two men working steadily along in their books- both in their 40's, both

never learned to read. With an underlying drive and awesome volunteer tutors, both have increased one level within three months. "J" is reading is about to start reading at a 4th grade level and "R" is flying through our 2nd grade level reading material.

"M" came to GLC last Spring to get her High School Equivalency, and now she has it! She actually scored very high and is now working on getting financial aid so she can go to Purdue North Central.

It's a family affair, in that a mom, son, and step-son are all using GLC to obtain their High School Equivalencies. Mom comes in the most, juggling school, full-time work, and 7 kids! She is a woman of faith and determination and she puts 99% of us to shame while doing everything with a smile.

GLC FAST FACT

Between December 1, 2014 and February 19, 2015, GLC had 622 visits from clients & volunteers

622

<https://www.facebook.com/gracelearningcentermc?ref=hl>

