

Summer 2022 Edition

CCH NEWS

PROFILES IN COURAGE-CCH PARTICIPANTS. In the pages that follow, we present success stories of participants of all CCH programs. In these pages, you will witness smiling faces, individuals holding keys to their new homes, checks for rental assistance, High School Equivalency Certificates, and hugs.

For these and all CCH participants, the stories and pictures of their fresh start are the end result. All came to CCH with severe challenges to keep a roof over their head, to keep food on the table and to manage many barriers they faced daily, which eventually resulted in them entering our program.



For many, years of pride prevented these individuals from addressing their barriers and stood in their way of happiness and the ability to secure sustainable self-sufficiency. It took courage to reach out to our programs. It took courage to share the intimate details of their life and their struggles. It took courage to accept the development of an action plan on how they would proceed through our programs. It took courage to attend classes and workshops and receive tools and skills to overcome their barriers. It took courage to face their demons.

Our dedicated staff, volunteers, community partners and our program leaders (Tammy Rosebaum, Erica Morse and Toni Mandeville) help these courageous individuals navigate through the specifics of their action plans, such as: meetings with doctors and mental health professionals and receiving assistance in classes facilitated by licensed or certified professionals. CCH helps with nutrition, computer skills, banking and budgeting and many other life skills classes. Please take a moment to visit our website at www.cch-mc.org for more information.

A donation to CCH is used to help these brave individuals face their barriers and create structure and guidance to better their lives. The end result is these individuals becoming tax paying and contributing members of our society, starting over with smiles, hugs and achievements through CCH.

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FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE



FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE. The success stories for this program are in the numbers. In the first six months of 2022, CCH's Food Rescue Initiative has procured and distributed over 55 tons of free food to over 30 soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters throughout LaPorte County with the help of partners Food Bank of Northern Indiana, United Way, and other sponsors.



CCH has partnered with Housing Opportunities, Inc. for many years. This year they requested, and were added to, the growing list of community partners to whom we distribute food. In this instance, it was a single case manager who asked,

"Is there enough extra so we may assist our clients who just got housing but struggle with transportation and other barriers?" Our answer was "absolutely"! So, we now add the clients of HOI to the list of those served in Michigan City.

With skyrocketing inflation and escalating food costs, this program is more vital than ever. We continue to help anyone reaching out for assistance. Food Rescue Initiative employs participants of CCH and Keys to Hope to work the program with pick up and deliveries. CCH and community volunteers organization and run all USDA, United Way, and Food Bank of Northern Indiana Mobile Food Pantry giveaway events in LaPorte County. We will continue to move the needle on food insecurity every day and are extremely grateful for those who assist us in doing so.





SAND CASTLE SHELTER



Family of six finds stable housing

We were recently blessed with the opportunity to help this family of six at the shelter. 'S' and five beautiful children stayed with us while getting back on their feet. While they were here, Mom worked hard and saved her money for housing. The children gave plenty of smiles and 'huggies', and were an absolute delight! It was amazing to watch 'S' flourish and grow during her stay at the shelter, all while exhibiting strength and kindness with her children as well as staff. When there was an opening with CCH Community Partner, Housing Opportunities, 'S' was able to get assistance with an apartment large enough for her family. She had money saved to cover her expenses and donated furniture for the apartment. Thanks to a CCH grant called *Floor No More*, 'S' and her children received brand new beds from Captain Ed's furniture. It's very rewarding to see all her hard work pay off. Congratulations 'S' and children!! We are so happy for you, but dearly miss those morning hugs before school!



After years of trauma, a home at last

While most Sand Castle residents are mothers and children, sometimes a father comes along who needs support, too. That was the case with 'C', a father with a precocious little girl who entered our shelter at the end of January. 'C' and his daughter were still reeling from a traumatic situation that made it nearly impossible to manage life on their own.

'C' met with his case manager and created an Action Plan, which he executed on Day One. He began taking classes at Grace



Learning Center and decided to take every single class on the calendar! He also entered the GED/HiSet program through A.K. Smith Career Center and began studying for his high school diploma.

Finally, 'C' received the call that his housing was approved! He and his daughter moved into their new apartment, thanks to our community partners at Housing Opportunities. The family was given donated furniture from the community, and their freezer was stocked through our Food Rescue Program.

But it was back to business the following Monday, as Dad had to test for his GED, which he passed with flying colors! After years of struggling, they are finally on their own and have found sustainable self-sufficiency!

A home of her own

All 'T' wanted was a home of her own, once again. After a few medical setbacks and staying with family, 'T' still came to Sand Castle with a positive attitude and a 'can-do' spirit. She was ready to do whatever she had to do to get back on her feet.

'T' attended classes at Grace Learning Center to aid her on her journey to sustainable self-sufficiency and began to work the program. She also attended the Budgeting Workshop taught by Ed Merrion, making her eligible to receive her first month's rent paid. When our partners at Housing Authority advised us of an opening and gave us the criteria, we knew she would be a perfect fit for their program.

'T' shed tears of joy (and maybe staff) at the news that she was approved for housing!



GRACE LEARNING CENTER



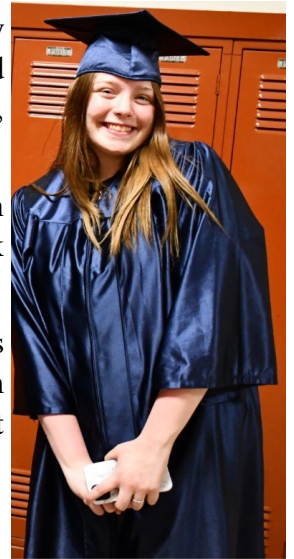
Congratulations, class of 2022!

Education is the core of what we do at Grace Learning Center. Our team believes any goal can be accomplished—any obstacle can be overcome—if one keeps his or her mind open to continued learning. That is how we address and overcome barriers, allowing individuals to move forward towards sustainable self-sufficiency.

It is the reason we continue to partner with A.K. Smith Career Center, offering High School Equivalency diplomas to adults in LaPorte County whose lives went off track during their high school years.

On June 1st, 2022, the CCH team was proud to watch as more than 40 individuals walked the stage at the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center inside the former Elston High School auditorium. Five of those students completed their high school education at Grace Learning Center.

Congratulations, graduates! We cannot wait to see what you accomplish next!



Addressing trauma and mental health community-wide

From job losses to losing a home, burying a child to being diagnosed with a terminal illness, every loss—no matter how big or small—can paralyze an individual who lacks the proper coping skills to process such a loss.

In January of this year, we began a pilot class at GLC for Coping with Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD), facilitated by the compassionate professionals at Pillars of Wellness in Hobart, Indiana. Immediately, CCH clients began addressing their traumas, moving past the mental paralysis that was holding them back from sustainable self-sufficiency. That response resulted in a series of coping classes, each one designed to address a specific barrier.

Staff began to take notice; soon, they were asking to participate in the classes as well! Now, the word is spreading, and individuals outside the shelter system are also taking advantage of these classes to heal old wounds that continue to weigh them down mentally.

We invite you to join us for the Coping series at GLC each week. **Coping for Trauma/PTSD** runs each Monday from 3—4pm, **Grief Group** runs Tuesdays from 2—3pm, directly followed by **Coping with Chronic Illness** from 3—4pm. For anyone who may not be able to attend in-person, virtual options via Zoom are available. For more information, call (219) 879-6788, or email: gracelearningcenter@cch-mc.org.



KEYS TO HOPE



Restoring hope to those who lost it



“A”, a permanently disabled gentleman, came to Keys to Hope seeking assistance after finding himself homeless due to circumstances beyond his control. From day one, ‘A’ was laser focused and determined to do whatever it took to get back into a home of his own.

‘A’ immediately began attending classes at Grace Learning Center and saving his money. He successfully completed the Budgeting & Self-Sufficiency Workshop taught by Ed Merrion. Doing so made him eligible to receive a check from Homeward Bound for his first month’s rent.

With the money ‘A’ was able to save, the check from Homeward Bound, and help from our community partners at Housing Opportunities, just 34 DAYS after entering our program, ‘A’ received the keys to his new apartment.

Congratulations, ‘A’, you did it!

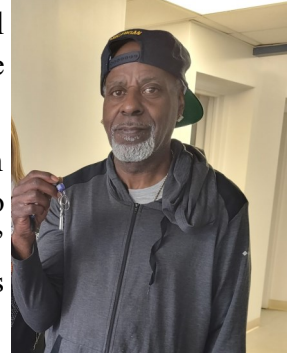
The prayers of a terminally ill Keys to Hope participant have been answered!

‘T’ came to our program wanting nothing more than to have a place to call “home” before his journey in this life is completed.

Although his energy level was low and his schedule was heavy with medical appointments, his determination was strong! He made time to attend the trauma classes at Grace Learning Center, obtained a part-time job, and completed the Budgeting & Self-Sufficiency Workshop taught by Ed Merrion (which made him eligible to receive a check from Homeward Bound for his first month’s rent).

With the money ‘T’ was able to save, the check from Homeward Bound, and help from our community partners at Housing Opportunities, not only did he get a place to call "home"... he got the apartment right next door to his good buddy, “A”! Hallelujah!

Congratulations, ‘T’, and welcome home!



Homeless Veteran receives his new ‘Keys to Hope’

‘J’ came to Keys to Hope in February after becoming homeless through no fault of his own. His landlord sold the home he'd been renting, and due to having only a small, fixed income, he was unable to secure a new, affordable place to call home by the date he had to move out.

Although it took, ‘J’ a bit of time to adjust to his new circumstances, once he began taking advantage of the guidance, support, and case management made available to him at Keys to Hope; and the barrier-busting education classes at Grace Learning Center, on May 11th, his smile was unstoppable, when he received the keys to his brand new apartment!

Congratulations, ‘J.’ Your Keys to Hope "family" is very proud of you, and we are grateful for the permanent mark you have left on all our hearts! May this new chapter be your best one yet!



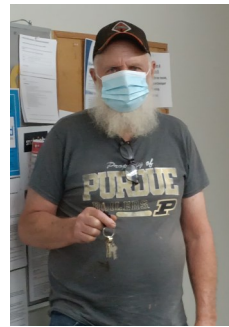
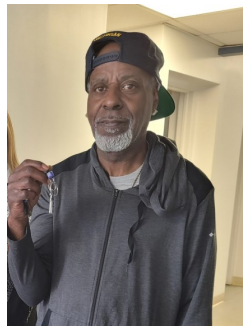
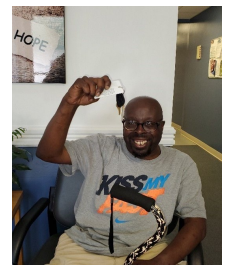


HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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 taught by CCH Past President Ed Merrion. All three preconditions must occur to qualify.



AGENCY WISH LIST

Paper Products:

Bathroom tissue

Paper towels

Kitchen garbage bags (Tall-13 gallon)

Cleaning Supplies:

Disinfectant wipes/spray

Multipurpose cleaner

Laundry Supplies:

Laundry detergent

Gift Cards:

Walmart, Meijer, Lowes, Menards

Gas cards

For a complete list of supply needs, visit our website at: cch-mc.org



CCH IN ACTION



Contact Us

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HONORING OUR VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The Del Sammelman, Sr. Charity Corp. is a non-profit organization founded in 2021 by Jill and Paige Mellen, in honor of the late Del Sammelman, Sr., to support local veterans.

Recently, the Del Sammelman, Sr. Charity Corp. reached out to Keys to Hope, and three veterans experiencing homelessness were recipients of their generosity. The vets were asked to provide a list of essential items for the non-profit to donate.

‘T’ said he needed two dress shirts and two pair of dress slacks so he could "dress more appropriately" for his new job at a local retail clothing store. ‘B’ said he needed a new pair of tennis shoes because his job requires a lot of walking and he has bad feet.

‘J’ received a King James Bible, and a suit to wear to church and job interviews. Although ‘J’ fought hard to hold back his tears while attempting to put into words how grateful he was to be the recipient of such generosity, a few did manage to sneak down his cheek.

Keys to Hope and our veterans are grateful for the support of the Del Sammelman Sr. Charity Corp.



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

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