



Holiday 2022 Edition

CCH NEWS

HOMELESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.



Imagine that for a moment. In normal society, being home for the holidays covers a range of feelings from cherished moments to something taken for granted. 'Tis the Season has a completely different connotation for those who are homeless. This is especially true for the participants of our Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families and our Keys to Hope Community Resource Center programs. Imagine for a moment the stress, anxiety and depression most people have in preparing for the holiday meal, family gatherings, opening of gifts and related celebrations. While these emotions are very real, they pale in comparison to people who have nothing.

Thanks to donations and community support, we are able to put together holiday celebrations that are good but fall far short of being home, with family. For our homeless population, it's nice, but not the same. There is a special bond among the families and individuals who grace our programs, and that helps emotionally during this time of year.

Fortunately, CCH has a mental health program facilitated by community partners Pillars of Wellness and Bowen Center which deals with emotions of the times. Depression, anxiety, anger or feelings of helplessness to name just a few. It's through these trying moments that many of our participants reach the level of resolve to be more aggressive in their programs and their desire to put this part of their lives behind them, and we stand proud watching them courageously move forward with the help of CCH programs.

We ask, if able, that you make a donation, large or small, allowing us to assist them in their path to sustainable self-sufficiency. Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our families to yours.

Jim Musial, Executive Director, Citizens Concerned for the Homeless

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FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE



Thank you, United Way

In late 2020, Kris Pate, President of United Way of LaPorte County (“UWLC”), approached CCH about sponsoring mobile food pantries across all LaPorte County. CCH would facilitate and run the events and Food Bank of Northern Indiana would provide the food purchased by the UWLC’s sponsorship.

We are now approaching the end of the UWLC collaboration. The success of this collaboration has been staggering. Over a two-year period, this partnership saw 203,112 pounds of free, healthy food distributed to 6,626 families impacting 144,772 individual family members. To say this is remarkable is an understatement.



In order to reach the goal of county wide impact, CCH facilitated multiple events for UWLC in the following cities; Michigan City, LaPorte, New Carlisle, Wanatah, Kingsford Heights, Westville and Hanna. United Way wanted to make a difference, and they did. UWLC also sought and received a grant for refrigerators and freezers for the food pantries in a capacity building initiative.

United Way of LaPorte County is one of the most impactful community partners CCH works with. What they did for our communities regarding food insecurity is a small piece of what UWLC does every day. Thank you, United Way of LaPorte County, and our trusted friends and partners Kris Pate, Dave Sisk, Ellen Devereux Meihofer and Marisa Chapels. Also, special thanks to CCH Operations Director Tammy Rosebaum for coordinating these events to perfection. Collective Impact works, and by working with other organizations collaboratively, we continue to battle food insecurity in LaPorte County.



If you or someone you know is in need of food, please email: gracelearningcenter@cch-mc.org, and we will send you a complete listing of food pantries and soup kitchens in the LaPorte County area. Hard copies of the food pantry list may be picked up at Grace Learning Center, 1007 W. 8th Street, Michigan City, Indiana, between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday—Friday.



SAND CASTLE SHELTER



Client Testimonials

'T' says, "Since I have been at Sand Castle, they have been very good to me. They provided clothes to me and my children, made sure we have food and a warm place to stay. It is a very homey setting. The staff is wonderful, and they always help and give all the resources they can to help you get back on your feet. I have done a lot of improving myself while being here."

'C' liked "all the resources offered to find a job. I received help with health insurance as well as other things."

'S' says, "Nurturing Parenting class really helped a lot!!" And "Thank you guys for everything you helped with and did for us. We really appreciate you guys very much!!"

'J' and 'J' say what helped them the most was "food and a place to sleep." And "Thank you so much for all you did, it helped tremendously."

Santa Visits Sand Castle Shelter

On December 3rd, Sand Castle children received their annual visit from the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and Santa! The children were given early Christmas presents and the shelter was also blessed with supplies from this generous group. It was so much fun to see the smiles on the faces of the children as they visited with Santa. We are truly blessed and grateful to have community support as we serve the homeless and disenfranchised population of LaPorte County.



Friends of CCH

We frequently have community members (YOU), who call in and ask what we need or what kind of volunteer opportunities are available. "Friends of CCH" is a new email list that was created allowing us to let you know what is going on and what areas we may need help in. If anyone is available, they can easily respond to the email. It may be something like a couple gallons of milk for the shelter or help passing out boxes at a food event.

They say it takes a village and every single day all of YOU prove that we really do have an amazing village! If you are interested, please email Tammy at trosebaumsc@gmail.com to be included. Thank you for your continued support of our programs and our mission.





GRACE LEARNING CENTER



GED/HiSet News

From Chris Certner the GED instructor: Our student who passed the HSE/HiSET exam said he had to get it done ASAP because he had been offered a job that required it. His beginning test scores verified that he had better than average academic skills. Along with his life experience and common sense, I figured he had a good chance of passing the exam. He wasn't so sure. Over the course of a week, he came to Grace every day and worked hard.



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For my part, I picked up on his urgency, and encouraged and pushed him along. Legitimately, I was able to praise him and build his confidence. At the end of the week, he went to an additional Fast Track program where, amid a group of ten or so younger students, it was evident he knew as much or more than they did. Luckily, the timing of everything was also in his favor. He was in the right place at the right time, and everything fell in line for him. The test was offered the following week and he passed all 5 subjects on the first try with better than average scores!

Testimonial from Recent GED/HiSET Graduate

My father died while I was in high school. Due to the lack of money I needed to switch to the local public high school. All of my course credits did not transfer so extra semesters would have been necessary. The financial situation was such that I needed to go to work full time and high school was pushed to the side. For over thirty years, it was always in the back of my mind, but never pursued due to privacy issues.



As a new job offer appeared, everything was going well. I received great references, and passed through the interview process without a problem. In processing all of the paperwork at the corporate level, they discovered that I did not have a diploma or GED. The general foreman being made aware of my situation advised me of his uncle who had gone back and earned his certificate.

As to hopefully not come in contact with anyone who would know me or my family name, I reached out to a school district two counties away. I made contact with Christine from Grace Learning Center, and she was very kind and accommodating to my situation. I was invited immediately to come in and start the process.

Within two weeks I was able to take my preliminary tests to see where I needed work. Coincidentally the Fast track program was available at the same time. Additional tutoring if necessary was also made available. Great information and attention was given by the instructors.

Should I ever come across anyone needing instruction to complete their diploma, I would wholeheartedly be happy to refer them to Grace Learning Center. Thank you again for helping me accomplish this great feat.

Warmest regards,
"Joe"



KEYS TO HOPE



Homeless to Homeowner!

“R” came to KTH seeking shelter in late July after having been displaced by her family. Although her birth certificate says she’s 71 years old, we quickly learned that she is in fact a very spunky 71 years young!

During her first meeting with our Program Coordinator, R made clear that her ultimate goal was not just to have a place to call “home”, but to be a home owner by the end of the year.

R immediately began taking advantage of the barrier-busting educational classes at Grace Learning Center, which included Coping Skills for Trauma, Grief Group, Coping with Chronic Illness, Critical Thinking Skills, Healthy Relationships, For the Health of it, Nutrition Education, Credit Repair, and others! She also began saving 75% of her disposable income (as required by our program) and meeting all of the other requirements of our program. She was a woman on a mission!

Although she faced a few setbacks, R never gave up, and her determination has paid off! We are overjoyed to announce that in a matter of just 4 months, R successfully completed our program and has achieved her ultimate goal... she is a HOMEOWNER!!!

Congratulations, R! You did it! Welcome home!



Homeless to Home in 57 Days!

After finding himself no longer able to afford the motel room he had been renting by the week, “C”, a disabled senior citizen with a history of both chronic physical and mental health conditions, joined the KTH program in September.

Immediately, C began taking all the necessary steps to ensure his physical and mental health needs were being properly met thanks to our community partners, HealthLinc and Swanson Center's PATH program.

C also actively participated in classes such as Coping with Chronic Illness, Nutrition Education, Dining with Diabetes, The 4 M's of Diabetes, at Grace Learning Center, as well as Healthy Relationships and Computer Basics. He also 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.

C's determination and hard work paid off quite quickly. In under 2 months, he accomplished all of his goals, saved an impressive amount of money, and was able to sign the lease to his new home!

While we're sad to see him go, we're delighted to know that with the help of CCH and our community partners, C has achieved sustainable self-sufficiency!





30 Years of Service



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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Bill Fennell, Interim Program Developer

HONORING OUR VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

On Saturday, October 23rd, our friends at the American Legion, Skwiat Post 451 and Aperion Care hosted a delicious, all-you-can-eat breakfast (with live music!) to benefit Keys to Hope Community Resource Center.

The KTH staff members and program participants in attendance were blessed to share in a bountiful breakfast, assist with serving and bussing tables, and most importantly, enjoy wonderful conversation with the many amazing families and individuals who came to show their support. To say that the experience moved us would be a huge understatement!

Afterwards, our Program Coordinator was asked to attend the monthly meeting of the American Legion Riders of Post 451. At that meeting, a hat was passed among the members in attendance for an additional, very unexpected donation to KTH.

As the day came to a close, with our hearts as full as our tummies, our Program Coordinator was presented a very generous check from The American Legion and Aperion Care, and cash donation from the American Legion Riders.



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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