



CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR THE HOMELESS



SEASONS GREETINGS!

Our community faces significant challenges, particularly food insecurity and affordable housing. Thanks to grants from the Indiana Department of Health, Health Foundation of LaPorte, and Unity Foundation, CCH will continue its food rescue and mobile food programs through June 2026.

Regarding the affordable housing crisis, CCH recently completed a federal TANF grant program, providing rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention assistance to over 100 families. For 2026, new grants from HUD and the PNC Foundation will allow us to continue supporting families with rental and utility assistance.

To expand our impact, we are launching a capital campaign to secure additional funding. Your support can help families transition out of homelessness and prevent others from losing their homes—truly the greatest gift we can offer this season. To contribute, please visit www.cch-mc.org or mail a donation to CCH, PO Box 8612, Michigan City, IN 46361. Every dollar counts.

Thank you for your generosity!

Jim Musial, CCH Executive Director



CCH Mascot Katy says...

This year has been full of memories, growth, and milestones. As we wrap up, we are grateful for every connection, experience, and opportunity that made 2025 unforgettable.

SAND CASTLE SHELTER

FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



THE STOCKINGS WERE HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE...

...in hopes that Captain Ed soon would be there. At Sand Castle Shelter, the spirit of Christmas has swept through the building like a gentle snowstorm. On December 1st, children awoke to the sight of twinkling lights and stockings adorning the fireplace. This annual tradition marks the start of the festivities at the shelter. Thanks to Captain Ed's Furniture and Bethel Presbyterian Church in Union Mills, Santa's elves are able to stuff the stockings each day until Christmas morning.



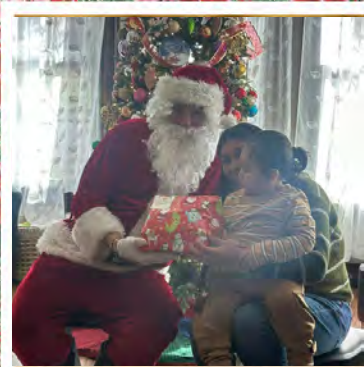
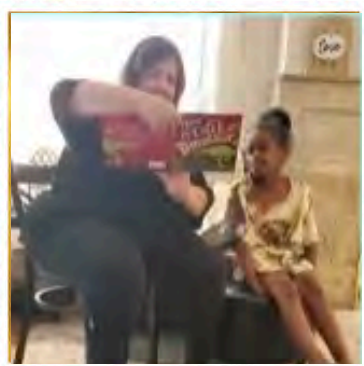
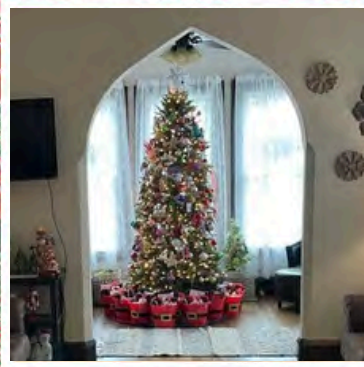
CHRISTMAS FROM THE EYES OF A CHILD

The little girl and her mom arrived at the shelter on a cold day in December. She had the same nervous look as all the other children who walk through the door. She asked if the other kids here were nice and wondered if they would be her friends. Living in their car meant no more playdates with her friends. In fact, some of the kids at school didn't play with her anymore and told her she smelled funny. Mom explained that she didn't always have money to go to the laundromat. After her hours were drastically, and unexpectedly, cut at work, she was no longer able to pay the rent. She had taken a better paying job a few days before coming to the shelter, but the nights were getting colder, and she knew her daughter needed to be inside. Mom and daughter were shown to their room and were so happy at the space they now had and the warmth inside the shelter. While showing them around, their tummies were loudly announcing how hungry they were, so one of the other moms invited them to share the lasagna she had just made for her family. This precious child was introduced to the other children and quickly made friends. She told one of the other little girls that she didn't have any toys and was given a doll and coloring book to keep. The other little one then explained that Santa's elves put a small toy and candy in their stockings every single day! Assurances were made that a stocking would be added to the fireplace with her name on it and a call to Santa would be made letting him know where she was (after signing a release of information, of course). As she checked her own stocking the next morning, the happy look on her face was priceless and full of hope! The next few weeks went by quickly and the new family was overwhelmed with joy on Christmas morning. The little girl opened each present slowly to savor the moment. Gone was the original, shell-shocked expression full of worry that no child should ever have. In its place was a smiling little girl who felt warm, safe and truly happy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!



GRACE LEARNING CENTER

LOOK AT US GROW!

The final quarter of 2025 has brought significant growth to GLC. We've added several new classes and services to our calendar, while popular programs have returned by demand—and more are on the way!

New Offerings:

- What Teens Need to Know: Addictive Substances
- Family Cooking on a Budget
- SeruSafe Certification Training
- Sisters of Grace Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
- Medicare & Medicaid Insurance Navigation Assistance

Returning Favorites:

- WorkOne Job Search & Preparation
- GED/HiSet
- Substance Abuse Education
- Plant-Based Cooking
- Dining with Diabetes
- Blood Pressure Clinic

Our expanding calendar is attracting more visitors than ever. September attendance increased by 11% over August, and October saw an impressive 48% jump from September. These results reflect the hard work of our program director—and we're just getting started. Watch GLC continue to grow in 2026!



NOW, WE'RE COOKING!

GLC is proud to welcome Chef Angie as our new cooking instructor. She offers classes in Plant-Based Cooking, Family Meals on a Budget, and SeruSafe Certification.

Chef Angie provides step-by-step instruction, guiding students through the fundamentals of cooking while demonstrating how to prepare delicious, nutritious meals. Her approach makes it easy to build confidence in creating budget-friendly dishes.

With rising food costs and recent SNAP reductions, these classes are an essential resource for every household.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

GLC extends its sincere holiday greetings to our esteemed community partners and donors. Your generous contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission. We wish you a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with health, prosperity, and continued success.



LOOKING BACK ON 2025





A WARM WELCOME

Participants at Keys to Hope are grateful for the opportunities provided this quarter. Over the past three months, participant employment rates have consistently exceeded 50%, demonstrating significant progress in overcoming barriers.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

This year has brought both challenges and successes, reinforcing the importance of resilience and gratitude.

Breaking Down these Barriers Equals Success.

ML joined the program and immediately prioritized finding employment. Despite his busy schedule, he consistently made time to attend classes at Grace Learning Center, including Healthy Relationships, Living with Anxiety, Coping Skills, Plant-Based Cooking, and Self-Esteem. ML was eager to help whenever he had free time outside of work. He also overcame several personal barriers, such as learning to budget and obtaining his vital documents. KTH staff observed significant growth in his confidence and his ability to live independently once again. His commitment to saving more than 75% of his income each week enabled him to secure housing and successfully graduate from the program within six months.

Because of donors like you, hope becomes reality. Every contribution fuels education, health, and brighter futures. Today, you have the power to change a life—will you take that step? Together, we can make miracles happen."



WORK IN PROGRESS

Participants continue to make progress in overcoming personal barriers. Last quarter reflected this through gains in employment and savings. Many are addressing substance use challenges and maintaining sobriety, while others are focusing on mental health in collaboration with community partners. We commend their commitment to personal growth and pursuit of self-sufficiency.

BARRIERS BUSTED

October 2025:

Employment Rate 50%

November 2025:

Employment Rate 57%



WISHING YOU JOY

We want to thank you for your support, be it donations, sharing our posts, positive thoughts or volunteering. We couldn't do all we do without the support of a community like you! Thank you! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE



Events that Feed More than Crowds

In the final quarter of 2025, CCH procured and distributed approximately 49,500 pounds of food to community partners to address food insecurity. Our monthly mobile food pantry events were sponsored by the Indiana Department of Health.

- September Highlights: We hosted a mobile food pantry event in Westville serving 150 families. 11,103 pounds of food was provided to the community free of charge through donations, pickups, and mobile events.
- October Highlights: We held an event in LaPorte serving 300 families. 17,624 pounds of food was provided to the community this month.
- November Highlights: We organized a food event in LaCrosse serving 150 families, and then partnered with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana to distribute 500 turkeys in Michigan City.



Believe
in the
magic
of
Christmas

TREES OF HOPE

2025



Blue Chip Casino & Spa

Sand Castle Family Shelter was overjoyed to be invited to participate in this holiday tree decorating competition which aims to support non-profit organizations. Trees are located in the Spa Blu Hotel hallway.

To cast your vote for our tree, please visit
Boyd Gaming social media channels
Facebook / X / Instagram / LinkedIn

You can vote once per day!





A "PEEL GOOD" STORY JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Approximately two years ago, Ms. Toni, our current GLC Program Director, happened upon a Facebook post regarding a Keys to Hope participant who had recently obtained employment but lacked essential work attire, specifically non-slip shoes and black pants. After confirming the individuals required sizes with the KTH program coordinator, Ms. Toni discreetly purchased the items through Amazon and arranged to have them delivered to KTH.

Fast forward...

Last Thursday, Ms. Toni received an unexpected visit at GLC from a former program participant to whom she had previously sent an Amazon package. He shared how his life had significantly improved over the past two years. Before leaving, he revealed that he knew she was the anonymous donor and expressed his desire to "repay the debt." Ms. Toni assured him that repayment was unnecessary and encouraged him to pay it forward instead. Despite her reassurance, he insisted and left cash on her desk as he said goodbye.

When Ms. Toni picked the cash up, she discovered that there was nearly twice the amount she had paid for the purchased items. She immediately sent him a message to ask that he return to reclaim the excess. He responded,

"I gave you an interest fee for it being so long, and also a little extra for your help and understanding. I appreciate you and all you do. Thank you for being you and brightening the world. You take care of God's people with compassion and care, so this is the least I could do in return. If you won't use it for yourself, use it to bless someone else, please!"

As we enter the holiday season, let us remember the influence our actions can have on others. Even when we don't witness the results of our good deeds, I assure you their impact remains significant for those who receive them!

Merry
Christmas

IN LOVING MEMORY

1953



2025

THOMAS P. MCCORMICK

Tom McCormick's leadership and vision has left an indelible mark on Citizens Concerned for the Homeless (CCH) and the broader community.

Joining the CCH Board of Directors in 2010, Tom served with distinction as board treasurer for three years, and then as board president for another three years, until reaching the by-laws term limit.

In 2013, he played a pivotal role in hiring current Executive Director Jim Musial, offering mentorship and guidance that continued throughout his board tenure and beyond, until his passing – a remarkable 13 years of support and friendship.

During a financial crisis in 2013, Tom led the revitalization of Grace Learning Center, transforming it from a GED education center into a dynamic empowerment program designed to remove barriers for all who enter its doors.

In 2015, he spearheaded the creation of the Keys to Hope Community Resource Center, aligning with the Balance of State Continuum of Care's ten-year plan to end homelessness. Now celebrating its tenth year, the center has welcomed over 100,000 documented visits.

Beyond CCH, Tom served as treasurer of the Barker Welfare Foundation for nearly 30 years, strengthening a longstanding grant partnership and advocating tirelessly for CCH.

In recognition of his extraordinary service, the main participant space at Keys to Hope Community Center now bears his name: Thomas P. McCormick Hall.

Tom McCormick's legacy is one of vision, compassion, and unwavering dedication to building pathways of hope. His work continues to inspire and uplift the community he so deeply cared for.

"The relationship Tom and I enjoyed over the years transcends the summation offered here."

~ Jim Musial



"THE DELICATE BALANCE OF MENTORING
SOMEONE IS NOT CREATING THEM IN
YOUR OWN IMAGE. BUT GIVING THEM THE
OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE THEMSELVES."

~ STEVEN SPIELBERG



? DID YOU KNOW ?

Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families is the only residential family emergency shelter in all of LaPorte County that does not have entrance qualifications.

CCH is now in its 35th year of operation, making it one of the longest serving not-for-profits in LaPorte County.

CCH mobile food distribution events provided nearly 45 TONS of free food to 3,100 families in 2025.

Grace Learning Center offers a wide variety of classes that are designed to help individuals overcome their barriers to success, and ALL classes are FREE!

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center has documented over 100,000 visits since opening in 2015.

It is only because of the generosity and commitment from our community partners that CCH is able to do all of the amazing things we do!

Contact Us

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc.

1005 W. 8th St., Michigan City, IN 46360

Jim Musial, Executive Director

(219)257-1110

jmusial@cch-mc.org



Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families:

1005 W. 8th St., Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 879-2552

Tammy Rosebaum,

CCH Operations Director

trosebaum@cch-mc.org



Keys to Hope Community Resource Center:

1802 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 809-9903

Nicole Mitchell,

Program Coordinator

nmitchell@cch-mc.org



Grace Learning Center:

1007 W 8th St., Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 879-6788

Toni Mandeville,

Program Director

tmandeville@cch-mc.org



Food Rescue Initiative:

1802 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360

Bill Fennell,

Program Coordinator

bfennell@cch-mc.org

From the CCH family to yours,

Merry
Christmas



JIM



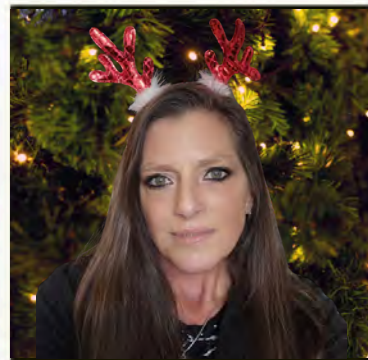
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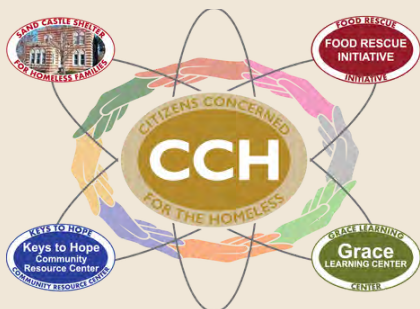
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Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc.
Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families,
Grace Learning Center, Keys to Hope Community
Resource Center, Food Rescue Initiative
PO Box 8612 Michigan City, IN 46361
219-879-2552 / www.cch-mc.org

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