

SAND CASTLE HAPPENINGS

Summer, 2011

You are invited....

Grace Learning Center Grand Opening

Monday, Sept 12

4 – 6PM

(Ceremony, 5PM)

1007 W. 8th Street

Michigan City, IN

Come celebrate our new effort to prevent homelessness through education.

Doreen, a single mother of three children under age 6, called the shelter when living with her sister became unmanageable.

“It’s too crowded,” she said, “and, when I get my paycheck <from a part-time job at a gas station>, she takes most of it for her bills and gas for taking me to work.”

While in the shelter, she quickly saved money and rented her own apartment. In her exit evaluation, she wrote, “Thanks so much for everything that you have done for me and my children. This has been a hard thing for us to go through but I thank God for helping me to have a clear mind and make the right decision. I don’t know how I would have made it through something like this, but without Ms. Debbie <residential technician> and her encouraging words I don’t know what I would have done.”

Jacinda, a single mom of an inquisitive, articulate 7-year-old girl, lost her job when her car broke down and she missed too

much time from her restaurant job. She couldn’t keep up with the bills in her apartment and moved out when the utilities were turned off. For three months, she lived friend-to-friend, never more than a few days in a row at the same location. Yet, every day, she walked her daughter to the same corner to get on the school bus — the school never knew of their homelessness. Within a month of moving into Sand Castle, Jacinda found a job in a small town in LaPorte County, then immediately found an apartment within walking distance of it. When she returned to the shelter to get the rest of her things a day or two after moving, there was a new lightness in her demeanor and brightness in her smile: she had the stability she had longed for for months, and she had earned it.



Can you help?

The shelter is in great need of **bath towels and kitchenware** (pots, pans, utensils, etc.), new or used, for use in the shelter and to give to families as they establish homes. To donate, just drop by. anytime, even evenings or weekends.

A program of **Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc.**

1005 West 8th St., Michigan City, IN 46360 219-879-2552

www.sandcastleshelter.org

mchomeless@ameritech.net