



## **COORDINATED ACCESS/COLLECTIVE IMPACT. ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR CCH.**

2018 proved to be a tremendous year for program growth at Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc. As we continue to grow through our collaborative model of Coordinated Access/Collective Impact, all three of our programs began new initiatives.

Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families began a new collaborative effort with Child Protective Services, which, coupled with Sand Castle, Michigan City Housing Authority and Keys Counseling, has resulted in faster reunification and case closures or, in the alternative, avoidance of child placement and CPS involvement in the first place. Other collaborative efforts include Monday Night Emotional Resiliency training with Swanson Center's Melissa Saylor, MSW, Purdue Nutritionist Jody Kutch teaches Healthy Eating and Food Prep.

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center executed a stronger collaborative effort with Interfaith Community PADS, Inc., making the emergency overnight shelter for women a launching point for women and families enrolling at Sand Castle, with the men required to enroll at Keys to Hope and begin/maintain a case management plan to improve all areas of their lives and eliminate, one by one, the barriers preventing them from self-sufficiency.

Grace Learning Center has been developing new Veteran services initiatives through GLC Program Coordinator Natalee Stewart utilizing a combination of intensive case management, deployment of existing CCH programs, classes and resources and a hands-on collaboration with the VA and resources available to the GLC clients.

CCH considers our most important collaboration being the partnership with our community. We truly subscribe to the statement "it takes a village". Your financial donations help us offer these programs to the most vulnerable members our community. Thank you so much for your continued support.



## Letter from Out Going President: Rachel Saxon



It is hard to believe that my two-year term as Board President is coming to an end. This transition has me thinking of the many things that occurred over that timeframe.

There were two primary challenges that come to mind. First, a couple months into my Presidency Jim Musial resigned to join another not-for-profit agency. Luckily for us, he heard CCH calling him back and he rejoined as our Executive Director after a short absence.

Second, we had a fire at our KTH location that required services to be temporarily relocated to St. Paul Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church. We are eternally grateful to them for their assistance during a challenging time.

Positive activities can be summed up under the umbrella Coordinated Access/Collective Impact. Through this effort, each of our programs have partnered with other service providing organizations and agencies to better serve our clients. At SCS, we are working with Child Protective Services, Swanson Center, and Purdue Northwest as well as conducting health-related classes sponsored by Duneland Health Council. At KTH, Interfaith Community PADS, HealthLinc, PATH at Swanson Center, Healthy Communities and the Aliveness Project are all partners. GLC is providing veteran's services and partnering with AK Smith Center, Dunebrook and PNC Bank to offer classes designed to improve self-sufficiency.

I am very proud and thankful for all our staff. Without them, we would not be able to provide our services to those in need.

I will pass the baton to the highly capable Ed Merrion at the end of 2018 and beginning serving my last year on the Board of Directors. I look forward to more positive developments in the future.

## Incoming President Welcome Letter: Ed Marion



Hello!

Why is there homelessness? Along with addiction, mental health issues and "life," a huge factor is the inability to obtain "living wage" employment, meaning a wage sufficient enough to provide an acceptable standard of living. In Indiana, our cost of living steadily increases, while wages lag behind. That cost increased by 23% from 2010 to 2016. Wages have not. Too often the wages offered do not cover the very basic needs of struggling families. To obtain living wage employment, one needs education.

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless (CCH) was formed in 1991 to serve a growing population of families living in cars, tents & on the streets, and in other unsuitable locations. That population is still growing, across America and right here in La Porte County. But we are growing too! CCH does not just shelter families! With our 3 facilities, and the collaboration of our community partners, we provide the means for clients to address the issues behind their homelessness.

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center (KTH) is a venue where we provide individualized case management and our community partners provide the programs, make available the tools and foster the skills necessary to deal with personal issues & move towards self-sufficiency. Grace Learning Center offers basic adult education & training needed to get and keep living wage employment. Sand Castle Shelter has a 74% success rate of moving families off the streets and into jobs & permanent housing.

Interfaith Community PADS, Inc. (ICPI) runs separate emergency shelter programs for men & women. We just renewed our memorandum of understanding with ICPI. That memo requires their overnight guests to register with KTH and gives CCH the opportunity to provide the aforesaid case management.

Rachel Saxon has done a wonderful job of leading our board of directors. I am excited to take on the position & work with our exec Jim Musial and YOU in this important work.

We will never end "homelessness." But with your support, both financial, in-kind and otherwise, CCH will continue to develop strategies, programs & collaborations to give individual men, women & families the ability to draw their episode of homelessness to a successful conclusion. JOIN US!

# SAND CASTLE SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES



**SAND CASTLE SHELTER SUCCESS STORY.** Collaborations with other organizations makes our program even stronger. Case in point is the success story of “L”. In July, L had her children taken from her by Child Protective Services because of various barriers, housing, addiction, financial, etc. Because of past successes, CPS contacted Executive Director Jim Musial and asked if we wished to collaborate with them for L’s benefit. The original meeting included 2 members of CPS, L, L’s attorney, L’s counselor from Keys Counseling, Jim Musial from Sand Castle Shelter and Cheryl Webster from Michigan City Housing Authority. After an hour’s discussion, we agreed L would enter as a single woman enrollment and supervised visitation would be eliminated and visitations would be conducted at Sand Castle.

L began working her Sand Castle Program, looking for work, working on sobriety and, as suggested by Sand Castle, working on her education (GED program at Grace Learning Center). L simultaneously continued her CPS program, meeting with CPS, meeting with Keys Counseling, and other reporting requirements. To say the least, L was extremely busy. Securing a job quickly, balancing this full dual schedule became quite a stressor.

L rolled up her sleeves and got to it. Eventually, L was allowed overnight visits with her children at Sand Castle. Having more than one participant working this new CPS collaboration, we kept one family room opened for purposes of overnights. Overnights then led to weekend visitation until they were poised for “home trial”, full-time reunification at Sand Castle. L’s enrollment was switched from a single woman enrollment to a family enrollment and, for the final six weeks, L and family flourished under the Sand Castle program. She worked with the GED program at Grace Learning Center, she saved her money and she positioned herself to receive assistance from the Housing Authority.

L achieved the following because of this program collaboration: L enjoyed full reunification with her children in 4 months, L saved nearly \$2,000 under the required CCH savings program, she received her HSE (GED) and will walk cap and gown in the spring, and she qualified and was awarded a MCHA Section 8 voucher for a three-bedroom apartment. Furniture will be provided through CCH partner Marv LaRue.

Success stories like this happen because of support we receive from our partners and our community. Thank you for your continued support.



# KEYS TO HOPE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



KEYS TO HOPE CASE MANAGEMENT. We continue to develop and improve the programming at the Keys to Hope Community Resource Center. With a grant secured this year from Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, we have improved the case management element of our ABC's to Self-Sufficiency Program (Appearance, Behavior and Change through Case Management). A primary purpose of Keys to Hope is to conduct "goal oriented" case management to each of the participants. To advance our participants, we need to not only know WHAT they need, we must also determine WHY they need it. Here is our team concept.

Our new Case Manager has an initial, and thereafter a weekly, case management conference with each fully enrolled participant. We identify their medical, legal, financial and educational background to determine their barriers...are they suffering through an untreated physical or mental illness, do they present addiction issues, do they have outstanding or unaddressed legal matters, do they have a high school diploma? The case manager, through these meetings, determines what barriers exist in order to set goals and strategies. The Case Manager set the goals, determine if CCH programs need to be supplemented and referrals made. Our new Administrative Assistant tracks all paperwork, enters the data into the IHEDA computer and prepares the file. Our Program Facilitator tracks participants' progress and makes sure appointments are met and progress on the plans are made.

Keys to Hope has helped over 300 participants secure jobs and housing since opening our doors in 2015. We can do better. This revamped program is just beginning, and we saw 11 people in the month of October secure jobs and housing, and this number will continue to rise. We anticipate that by addressing underlying barriers, we will see long term sustainability!!!



Keys to Hope Community Resource Center  
@keystohopecommunityresourcecenter

# Grace Learning Center



**Even more new programming!** CCH launched Veterans Services programming for our most vulnerable nation's heroes. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that 40,056 veterans are homeless on any given night (hud.gov), and increase from the previous year (Militarytimes.com). The VA's Point in Time reporting, last done in January of 2018, reported that in the state of Indiana there are 615 homeless veterans with 3 continuum of cares offered in the state. CCH currently has 10 homeless veterans enrolled in programming.

J first came to GLC in May. He had issues with PTSD, employment, addiction, and homelessness. Since working the Veteran's Service programming, we were able to get J VA disability, regular psychologist appointments, and a path out of homeless. J has done a complete 180 on behavioral and lifestyle choices, and is well on his way to self-sufficiency and affordable housing!

CCH has assisted several veterans with documentation, disability claims, referrals to outside resources, and individual grant funding available through Indiana department of Veteran Affairs and outside organizations such as the American Legion and the VFW. We provide our clients with all the tools and support needed to assist them along the path out of homelessness.



## Current Workshop & Class Offerings:

Basic Computer Skills – Goodwill Industries  
 Banking / Budgeting Basics – PNC Bank  
 Nurturing Parent Program – Dunebrook C. Silvas  
 Resume Building- Natalee Stewart  
 Job Preparation and Retention – Natalee Stewart  
 Flight School – Melissa Saylor  
 Credit Repair – PNC Bank

HSE / GED Preparation – AK Smith Center  
 Youth Tutoring – GLC Staff  
 Nutrition Class – Purdue University  
 Job Searching- Natalee Stewart  
 Benefits Information – Natalee Stewart  
 Microsoft Word- Natalee Stewart  
 Smoking Cessation – J. Musial

VETERAN SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE!

**BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR NEW PROGRAMMING COMING SOON!**



**Grace Learning Center**  
 @gracelearningcentermc



**Be your own Super Hero Event**

Over 100 kids served and taught the importance of drug free living!



**Sandcastle Shelter Halloween Party**



**Northern Indiana Food Bank Turkey Giveaway! Over 200 Turkeys given to the community!**



**KTH Garden Clean up**



**CCH Participation in Captain Ed's Boat Races!**



**KTH took First Place over all**



**CCH as a whole won 5 trophies!**



**CCH AND PNW PARTNERSHIP**



**Our 2019 Board of Directors**

- Ed Marion, President
- Joshua Moran, VP
- Amy Jarrett, Secretary
- Yolanda Davis, Treasurer
- Rachel Saxon
- Michael Bergerson
- Tina Sherrod-Crawford
- Arturo Pozos

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**Want to contact us about something you see?**

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