

# Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana

[www.capwi.org](http://www.capwi.org)

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2017 Issue



Helping People.  
Changing Lives.

Our Mission is  
that simple!

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## *The Road to Success*

Community Action Program's Employment and Training division employee Dawn Achor recently nominated one of her clients, Mandy Green for an achievement award. Mandy was selected as an outstanding participant in the workforce development system of Indiana. Mandy's hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to all Hoosiers. Only 11 individuals out of thousands of workforce development participants will receive the award this year. Mandy received her award at a ceremony held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. We are very proud of Mandy and our staff that worked with her throughout her journey to success. Below is Mandy's story and the reason's why she was nominated for the achievement award:

On September 10, 2015 Mandy came to a Ready to Work Informational meeting at the American Job Center/ WorkOne office in Lafayette, Indiana. Mandy was 22 years old, long-term unemployed, recently out of jail, no transportation/car and was staying in a halfway house called Home for Hope when she heard about the Ready to Work program. She came to our office with little work experience and two felonies. Mandy was co-enrolled in the following American Job Center programs: Adult, Youth and Ready to Work (RTW). Mandy had been working hard to not continue down the path she had been going and decided to make the changes necessary to better her life. When we first met with her, she had been interested in the medical field but due to her criminal background this wasn't an option. Through intensive case management we worked together and discovered that advanced manufacturing would be a career pathway she could pursue. Mandy took all necessary assessments for the Youth, Adult and RTW programs. She successfully participated and completed Employability Skills Training with the RTW Career Coach. During that time, she completed the following training components: Networking; Resume Writing; Financial Planning; required WorkKeys at a bronze level in Reading for Information, Location Information and Applied Mathematics; Change Management and Skill Identification. On September 28, Mandy began occupational skills training with Purdue Polytechnic-Lafayette, where she attended a paid, four-week, hands-on advanced manufacturing training class. During this course she learned a variety of skills including but not limited to: Safety-Quality-Cost Impact; TPS Overview and 5s-Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardization, Self-Discipline/Sustain; Just-In-Time; Kaizen; Analytical Trouble Shooting; Root Cause Analysis; OSHA and Environmental Awareness; Conditioning and Injury Prevention and Teamwork. On October 30, she completed and earned an Advanced Manufacturing Standardized Work Certificate from Purdue Polytechnic-Lafayette and continued on to an internship/work experience with SIA (Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc.) through the employer's temp service, CTI. (continued on page 2)



**Dawn Achor (CAPWI-Ready to Work Career Planner) and Mandy Green (participant and award winner).**

### *The Road to Success (continued from page 1)*

The internship/work experience lasted 9-weeks and Mandy successfully completed and continued work with CTI/ SIA. On July 18, 2016, she was hired on full-time with SIA. She recently was able to lease a brand new 2017 Legacy and obtain stable transportation on her own. She has on occasion come in and talked to other classes about her RTW experience including the barriers she had to overcome. She is now substance free for two years, working full-time, receiving benefits and overall self-sufficient. Throughout the program, Mandy, was a first-class client for all of our American Job Center programs.

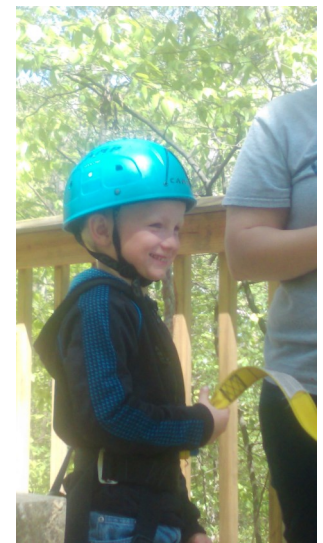
She was punctual, friendly, participated and always maintained contact with all her Case Managers at WorkOne-Lafayette. In fact, Mandy's Youth Case Manager Trish Malady, had this to say about her, "Mandy is smart, dependable and eager to learn what it takes to succeed in her career choices!"



Pictured: Left to right: Chris Cohee (CAPWI-Director of Employment and Training), Brooklyn Burton (America's Promise Project Manager), Mandy Green (participant and award winner), Dawn Achor (CAPWI-Ready to Work Career Planner) and Jeremy Bolinger (CAPWI-Ready to Work Job Developer).

### *TALKS Mentoring/Leadership Program Concludes for the Year*

The TALKS Leadership/Mentoring program is a systematic structured program that works to share adult wisdom with young people. The TALKS model is one adult mentor and three students meeting together to talk about wisdom and life skills 30 minutes once a week at the school during the school day. The program utilizes a curriculum that has been proven effective at increasing emotional intelligence and wisdom in young people. The program was founded by Dr. Harold Davis from Champaign, Illinois. Currently the Fountain County TALKS program is active at Attica Elementary, Covington Elementary, Covington Middle School, and Fountain Central Junior High School. Presently there are 20 adult mentors and 56 students that are involved with the program overall. The program recently concluded for the school year. Mentors, students, their families, school personnel, and some distinguished guests joined together on Sunday afternoon, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center to conclude this year's program. Twin Lakes opened up their zip line and set up a bounce house for kids of all ages to enjoy. The activities were followed by a delicious dinner prepared by staff at Twin Lakes. An awards program followed dinner. The program began with presentations by four guest speakers. Dr. Harold Davis, author of the TALKS curriculum spoke to the group about the importance of following directions and learning new things. Dr. Davis holds the Master of Ministry and Doctor of Ministry degrees with honors from Bethany Theological Seminary and has a Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia State College. He has authored several books in addition to the TALKS curriculum. His wife Dr. Ollie Watt Davis spoke next. She is a Professor of Music at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and the conductor of the award-winning University of Illinois Black Chorus. As a vocal artist and soprano she made her New York debut at Carnegie Hall. She spoke about service to others and closed in song, singing "This Little Light of Mine". The Davises have five adult children and three grandchildren. Muff Rennick, Executive Director of Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana shared her personal story of overcoming poverty as a young child and how various people throughout her life served as mentors. (continued on page 3)



## *Head Start Program Recruiting for 2017-2018 School Year*

Head Start and Early Head Start are accepting applications for the 2017-2018 program year. Head Start is a child and family development program for income eligible preschoolers (ages 3-5) and their families. Children receive a high quality early education opportunity through participation in either our center-based preschool or our home-based option. All children receive a physical, dental, and numerous other health and developmental screenings to assure that the child is healthy and ready to learn.



Transportation is provided to and from the child's home for children enrolled in our center-based program, with the exception of Montgomery County. Home-based children receive 1 1/2 hour home visits in their home each week. Early Head Start offers a home-based option for infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families. Families are visited each week for 1 1/2 hours. These visits focus on working with the parent to help the child to explore, learn, and grow. Home visitors work with the parents to assure that all well-baby checks and immunizations are on track. These families come together two times each month for play groups. In Montgomery County, Early Head Start has a toddler classroom as part of their CAP Kids Child Care. This program offers full-day/full-year child care services for toddlers from 18-36 months. All families are assisted in setting goals and referrals to needed social services to assist them in becoming more self-sufficient. Parent groups and family fun nights are provided to allow for time to spend together as a family and discuss issues and topics that affect parenting and family life. Family incomes must be at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, and children must be three prior to August 1, 2017 to be eligible for Head Start. The program accepts children with disabilities. Head Start and Early Head Start programs are offered through CAPWI in the following Indiana counties: Benton, Boone, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion, and Warren. For more information, please call (765) 793-4881 or text (765) 585-1234. Online referrals are also available on our website at: <http://www.capwi.org/services/family-life/head-start/>

## *TALKS Mentoring/Leadership Program – continued*

Rennick credited these mentors in helping her be the success that she is today. Dale White, Executive Director of the Western Indiana Community Foundation spoke about "personal Initiative." He stressed how taking the initiative and staying committed helped him achieve a number of things throughout his life. The evening concluded with Kathy Walker, Program Director of TALKS of Fountain County presenting certificates of excellence to youth and certificates of appreciation to mentors. Each mentor had previously provided positive attributes to Walker who put them on certificates that were read aloud when presented to students. In addition to the certificates, students were also awarded a scholarship to one week of summer camp at Twin Lakes. The scholarships were provided to Attica and Covington students through a grant from the Attica and Covington Community Foundations. SE Fountain School Corporation student scholarships came from donors of Twin Lakes Camp. "We are truly blessed to have the collaboration we have with the schools, Twin Lakes Camp, Community Action Program, the Community Foundation, and our volunteer mentors. Everyone has come together to aid our youth in growing in wisdom and emotional intelligence throughout their school years. I am proud to be the Director of such an awesome program in this great community," said Kathy Walker. "It was a great day enjoyed by all." More mentors are needed for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mentors are matched with three students selected by the schools based on criteria provided by the TALKS program. Contact Kathy Walker, 765-793-4881 or by email at [kwalker@capwi.org](mailto:kwalker@capwi.org) for more information.



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WORK  
THROUGH  
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INSECURITY BY  
REVITALIZING  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND HELPING  
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## CAPWI Mission Statement

To help eliminate the causes of poverty in our community by the planning, development, and administration of programs that will intervene at critical points in the causes of poverty and that will enable families and individuals to become more self-sufficient. We also resolve to provide decent, safe, sanitary housing that is affordable to low and moderate income people.

## Joan Cline Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI) offers scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$1,000 for each year they attend higher education up to a maximum of 4 years. Scholarships are only awarded within the six county service area which includes Benton, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion and Warren. This years scholarship recipient was Karsyn Zenor from Warren



County. She attends Seeger High School in West Lebanon. Karsyn resides in Attica with her mother Heidi Zenor. She plans to attend Purdue University to study Animal Science. Karsyn has been a member of the Indiana Junior Angus Association, FFA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, and Student Government Association. She also plays softball, volleyball, and volunteers at her church. Congratulations Karsyn! The scholarships are offered in Memory of Joan E. Cline who was the Executive Director of Community Action Program Inc. of Western Indiana until her death in December 2004. Joan dedicated her life to helping families and individuals become self-sufficient. Of the many tools utilized to achieve that goal, education is primary. Joan believed that assistance through higher education was necessary. Through this scholarship, Community Action Program continues Joan’s work in helping these outstanding young people attain their individual educational and career goals.

Photo: Heidi Zenor (mother) and Karsyn Zenor (recipient).

All services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran