

# Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana

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



**Helping People.  
Changing Lives.**

**Our Mission is  
that simple!**

### Inside this Issue:

**MAC Van** 2

**Ready to Work** 3

**JAG** 4

**Mission Statement** 4

**Quarterly Newsletter**

**March 2016 Issue**

### *50 Year History of CAPWI*

In the early 1960's, the invisible Americans, the poor, became visible to the eyes of the nation. They had existed all along but the media brought them to living rooms all across the nation. Books that recorded the history of America's disadvantaged became best sellers. Universities and foundations conducted studies on the problems of the poor. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared freedom from destitution a right of every American and called for gathering the nations resources in a "War on Poverty." Congress made this declaration of war by passing the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) of 1964. This was one of two important events which occurred during the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson, the other being the passage of the Civil Rights Act. The Office of Economic Opportunities (OEO) first round of funds were not earmarked for any specific local purpose. They were to be used by local Community Action boards to utilize in determining what would best identify and solve the local problems of poverty. The theory was that local citizens and boards knew best the problems of poverty in their own communities and how to address them. Passing of the Economic Opportunity Act set the stage for the beginnings of the Community Action Program across the country. Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana started out by applying for funds to start a low-income preschool (Head Start). In 1965 a grant for three Head Start classes located in Fountain County was submitted in the amount of \$4,850 and subsequently awarded in the amount of \$7,862. On February 17, 1966 the Community Action Program, Inc. of Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties was incorporated. Soon after it's incorporation, the agency received a Community Development Grant and later Administration and Neighborhood Services Grant, which began the outreach and referral program. This program was vital in determining the needs of the community. In 1967, a \$18,421 Federal grant was received to fund the study and development of projects to aid the local financially underprivileged. A summer Head Start program was begun in four of the counties. Today the agency has four divisions, nearly 20 programs, and over 150 rental properties throughout a six county service area. Our funding started at \$104,237 in 1966 and has grown to \$14,120,000 in 2013. Our governing board is comprised of 18 volunteers with proportional representation from each of the six counties we serve. Six are appointed by public officials (County Commissioners), six represent the constituency served, and six are officials or members of private business, religious, educational or other groups. This year, 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana. We are proud of how far we have come in these 50 years. To commemorate this achievement we are hosting our annual meeting and awards dinner of the corporation on Friday, April 8, 2016 starting at 5:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Beef House Banquet Center, in Covington. Charles McCann, Certified Community Action Professional, Emeritus will be our guest speaker. The public is invited. Tickets are \$20 per person. RSVP by March 25th. To obtain tickets or to get more information, contact our central office at 765-793-4881. We hope you can join us!



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### **What is MAC Van?**

MAC (Mobility for Area Citizens) Van is a service that provides transportation for elderly and disabled persons in Fountain and Warren counties. MAC Van is just one of numerous programs administered by Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana. MAC Van works closely with the three area nursing homes to transport handicapped residents to local medical clinics and clinics in Lafayette, Crawfordsville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Danville, IL, and Champaign. The program has wheelchair accessible vans as well as minivans and standard sized passenger cars. All drivers hold public passenger licenses and are trained in passenger assistance techniques, CPR, defensive driving, first aid and emergency evacuation. MAC Van is a demand-response transportation program which means each day is scheduled according to the number of requests, time and location of appointments. Hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Riders need to call for pick-up time as soon as they book an appointment. Fountain County riders can call (765) 793-4871 to schedule transportation. Warren County riders call 765-762-0420 to schedule. The program prefers that riders provide one to two week notification when scheduling a ride: one or two days' notice is accepted; however, last minute appointments are often available, due to cancellations. Eligible riders include anyone age 60 and older, handicapped persons 55 and older, and/or Medicaid recipients that have no transportation for medical appointments as well as younger handicapped persons.



Transportation services can be provided for any of the following:

- Medical Appointments
- Social Service Agencies
- Legal/Court Appointments
- Covington and Warren Senior Centers (provided each weekday)
- Shopping and Errands (one day per week is specified for shopping and errands in each town.)
- Groceries
- Pharmacies

Fundraising is crucial to the operation of MAC Van. Clients are encouraged to make a donation for their transportation, no matter how small. Community and private donations are also welcome. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation to the MAC Van program contact Tammy Nickle, Program Coordinator at (765) 762-0420.

## Ready to Work Program

Ready to Work is a program to help those experiencing long-term unemployment learn new skills and secure manufacturing employment. Individuals involved in the program receive classroom training and receive their Purdue Polytechnic Advanced Manufacturing Standardization work certificate. Pictured below are Ready to Work participants Charles J. McLean III and Miriam Escobedo along with CAPWI staff member Mark Woodcock. Charles and Miriam were two of the 19 that received a certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Standardized Work Training from Purdue Polytechnic on February 12, 2016. Both clients started working for CTI for Advanced Manufacturing Positions at SIA the following week. They were participants of the 6th group to go through the Ready to Work Program.



Charles J. McLean III had this to say about the Ready to Work Program, “I had the opportunity to be in the class hosted by Work One. This class was very rewarding in what they helped all of us with. The most important part of the class that stood out for me was how in-depth the resume writing, and the mock interviews training. Anyone can have an awesome resume, but if you can't sell yourself with confidence at your interview the chance of getting hired just decreased. Work One took the time to work with us in every aspect of our training, and we were able to transition into the school structure at SIA with our instructor. The two weeks with Work One gave each of us our baseline, and grounded us for what we were going to do from that point on. Much thanks to the Work One personnel.”

Miriam Escobedo had this to say about the Ready to Work Program, “I had a good time in all my seven weeks on the ramp program. I learned how to be professional on an interview and how to work with trouble shooting. I got to work on how to be more open with people and how to work in a group of people.”

Pictured left to right; Charles J McLean III, Miriam Escobedo, and Mark Woodcock.

## Individual Development Account (IDA)

What is an Individual Development Account? It's a four-year, matched savings program designed to assist individuals in achieving self-sufficiency through financial literacy and asset generation. For each dollar saved, up to \$300 per year, the program will match it with three dollars. This means, if you successfully save \$300, then we will match it with \$900, totaling a combined savings of \$1,200. That's an interest rate of 300%. You can use your combined IDA savings to:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Buy a home                       | Principal Reduction on a mortgage                      |
| Further your education           | Help home owners with repairs or needed rehabilitation |
| Start or expand a small business |  |

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OUR PROGRAMS AND  
SERVICES HELP  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
COMMUNITIES WORK  
THROUGH ECONOMIC  
INSECURITY BY  
REVITALIZING  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND HELPING  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
FAMILIES BECOME  
MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT.



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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.

## Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG)

Congratulations to our JAG students who successfully competed in the Regional JAG Career Development Conference held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette. Several of the students placed in the top 3 of each competition. All first place winners will be competing in the state competition in Indianapolis on March 11<sup>th</sup>. First place winners and competition titles are as follows; Kyra Stetler (OHS) - Career Presentation, Anthony Zavala (JHS) - Critical Thinking, Hanna Newman (TLHS) – Financial Literacy, Darrius Williams (MHS) – Public Speaking, MacKenzie Kirkman (OHS) – Writing Skills, Samuel McVady & Jake Arthur (TLHS) – Entrepreneurship, Elijah Tribbett (TLHS) – Outstanding Senior, Twin Lakes HS – Chapter Service Blog/Video Diary, Twin Lakes HS – Chapter Commerical, and Victoria DeSantiago (OHS) – Flyer Design.



Special thanks and congratulations to the CAPWI JAG staff who once again diligently prepared their students for the competitions. JAG staff are as follows:

Crawfordsville HS (CHS) -Ken Dieruf, JAG Specialist  
Jefferson High School (JHS) - Katie Schaffer, JAG Specialist  
McCutcheon High School (MHS) - Kelsey Rummel, JAG Specialist  
Oakland High School (OHS) - Ebony Barrett-Kennedy, JAG Specialist  
Twin Lakes High School (TLHS)- Christine Shaffer, JAG Specialist



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