

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana

www.capwi.org

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2017



Helping People.
Changing Lives.

Our Mission is
that simple!

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Miss Indianapolis 2017, CAPWI Client Success Story

Back in December 2015 we told the story of a client who had a life changing experience through our Employment and Training division. Nallely Garcia-Nava enrolled herself in school to become a Medical Assistant. She got a job at a local store and helped a family clean their house but still struggled financially. She looked into becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). After researching many ways to obtain her CNA, she found that WORKONE could help her accomplish her goal. She worked with caseworker Cindy Hicks who helped her get into the CNA program. Getting my CNA through WORKONE not only helped her reach one of her goals, but gave her the tools necessary to be successful. She continues to advance her career as a healthcare professional. Nallely has not stopped there. She found the Miss Indianapolis Pageant through Facebook and applied to be a contestant. The Miss Indianapolis Pageant is a community service organization in it's 9th year. The motto of the Miss Indianapolis pageant is; "We are REAL women in the REAL world making a REAL difference." Queens are challenged to go out and make a difference in Central Indiana. Available to a wide variety of duties such as emcee or hosting, registering and welcoming volunteers, entertaining, and other fundraising activities. Amanda Turpin, CAPWI Employment & Training staff person with the SkillUp program is also the Director of the Miss Indianapolis Pageant. Amanda indicated that Nallely was selected because of her passion, humility, and self-less desire to help others. A panel of judges interviewed contestants for 4 minutes each with impromptu questions and judged each contest in an evening gown competition. Then, during the finale, each participant was challenged to answer an impromptu on-stage question. After the ballots were tallied, Nallely walked away with the title of Miss Indianapolis 2017! We are proud to see one of our clients being successful professionally and personally. Congratulations Nallely!!



Pictured (left to right): Cindy Hicks, Nallely Garcia-Nava, and her daughter



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Head Start & Early Head Start Accepting Applications for 2017-2018

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/>

In addition to recruitment for the 2017-2018 school year, our Head Start Division has been awarded a duration extension grant to assure that 40% of the center-based classes are extended to 1,020 hours per year. This means that Head Start will be changing their program structure for the 2017-18 school year to accommodate longer school days in our Parke/South Vermillion and Montgomery County centers. They will extend the program day for 80 preschoolers from half-day (3 1/2 hour) classes/four days per week to 6 hour days/five days per week throughout the academic year. Research has shown that children who spend longer amounts of time in high quality early learning environments show greater gains than those in shorter sessions. Because of this, the federal Office of Head Start is planning to eventually mandate that all center-based classes extend their duration to better meet these findings. The grant awarded to CAPWI will allow us to take some first steps in this transition. We are looking forward to having more time for the children to engage in active play and learning and to allow the teachers to focus on individualizing their instruction to specifically meet the needs of each child. The extension will allow for the pace of the day to slow down and create many more opportunities to enhance child outcomes. At both of these centers, Montgomery and Parke/South Vermillion, new staff members will be needed to meet these extension needs. We will be adding two teachers, two to four teacher aides, two family advocates, and, hopefully in Montgomery County, two bus drivers. We hope to begin interviewing for these new positions in mid-May. Qualifications for these positions will be posted on the agency website within the next few months. As federal funding allows, other centers within CAPWI will make the transition to this extended-day option with a hope that all will be operating at 1,020 hours per year by 2021.



Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) Competition Success

At this year's Career Development Conference held on February 3rd, the students from Twin Lakes High School excelled with a record of seven students qualifying to compete at the state level in Indianapolis on March 17th. Among the winners from Twin Lakes were; Alayana Plummer, who won first place in employability, Kylie Case, who won first place in financial literacy, Zach Jurs won first place for public speaking, and Hayley Nornung and Savannah Segal who tied for first place in writing skills. Hannah Newman (pictured) was named outstanding senior. Additionally, the Twin Lakes team won first place for its student-produced marketing brochure and commercial and second place for their service learning blog.

Congratulations to all of the JAG students and their outstanding JAG Specialist Christine Shaffer.



Individual Development Account (IDA)

IDA is a four-year savings plan intended to help families with limited income to develop a budget, set goals, establish savings habits, and invest in an asset.

- Want to go back to school to further your education?
- Want to start your own business?
- Want to buy a home or need repairs completed?
- Need to purchase a car for transportation to work or school?

Then you might be interested in the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. Some of the requirements of the program are that you must be a resident of Indiana, have earned income and are able to put a small amount into the program on a monthly basis. For each dollar saved, up to \$250 a year, the program will match it with four dollars. This means, if you successfully save \$250, then the program will match it with \$1,000, totaling a combined savings of \$1,250. If you complete the four-year program at the current rate of match you would have approximately \$5,000.00 to invest in an asset (start a business, education, homeownership, rehab of current home, car). Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- An Indiana Resident
- Employed – part or full-time
- Below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines based on household size
- Able to save a minimum of \$25 per month
- Meet the minimum screening requirements

For more information about the program and to get an application, contact Alice Young at 793-4881 or by email at ayoung@capwi.org



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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.

Ready to Work Success Story

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. Below is a success story from a participant:

I was a part of the ready to work program, class 4. I'd heard about the program through a lady that knew someone in class 3. I had just moved to Lafayette about a month before I got to start the class, so everything about the program sounded perfect for me. I went to the orientation class, and received a phone call that same day saying I made the cut. They offered us all many different forms of help to get us started. Some with daycare, clothes, boots, gas cards, and bus passes. When I started the program I didn't even have a car at the time. My classmates were all very helpful with being willing to go out of their way to pick me up and take me home. The Ready to Work program even reimbursed them with some gas money for doing so. Honestly without their help, and the classmates help, I doubt I would have been able to get half as far as I have now. I ended up going with Subaru after I graduated the class at the end of October 2015. I started my first day through CTI November 2nd, so I didn't even have to have any gaps with no pay. I got lucky again and placed in the body shop, first shift. A more preferred area, with the most amazing, generous people. I went full time July 18, 2016. I'm currently 2nd shift body shop now. I'm just receiving my second attendance bonus, earned my PTO days just this month, and was able to lease a brand new 2017 legacy. I love my job, and the people I work with currently! I've recommended this program to multiple people. I've had a few friends go through the program as well even; some of whom also still work at SIA. I still receive emails from different staff members checking up on me every now and then, making sure I'm working and don't need any more assistance. I'll always be very grateful for the Ready to Work program, and all the opportunities they gave me.

Mandy Green
Ready To Work Class 4



Pictured: Brooklyn Burton, Ready to Work Project Manager, Mandy Green, and Dan Taylor, Purdue Polytechnic Lafayette, Instructor

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