

# Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana

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



Helping People.  
Changing Lives.

Our Mission is  
that simple!

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Quarterly Newsletter

March 2018

## 2018 Woman of Distinction

Christine (Chris) Sheetz has been a lifelong Benton County resident. In addition to working at a food co-op she helped launch, Sheetz spends her spare time volunteering with The Salvation Army and organizing the annual Red Kettle Campaign and children's coat drive. So it was no surprise to her colleagues when it was announced she had earned the YWCA's Women of Distinction award. Caregiving has always come naturally to Sheetz, and she recognized early-on that there was a need in her Benton County community. "It all started 15 years ago when I started working for Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI)," Sheetz said. "I work with several hundred clients a year and working through Community Action has allowed me to see what needs there are in Benton County." That's when Sheetz decided she wanted to do more and helped launch the Community Food and Service Co-op in the fall of 2016. The co-op provides food and household supplies to struggling families. In just 14 months, the co-op has grown to more than 200 members. "I thought we would be lucky if we had 20 in the first year," Sheetz said. "It's just amazing that we have 250 very active members." Hard work and helping people out is just the way Sheetz was raised. "I grew up in a large farm family with nine children, so I learned a hard work ethic early-on through my parents and watching my siblings," Sheetz said. "I hope to be able to help people all of my life. Through my faith, that's what I believe I am meant to do," said Sheetz. The 2018 Salute to Women ceremony was held on March 6 at the Trails Banquet Facility in West Lafayette, In. Several CAPWI employees, including members of management, the executive director and a board member attended to show their support for Sheetz. Congratulations Chris!



Pictured (left to right): Kristy Frier, Amanda Coffing, Robin Curry, Diana Desutter, Chris Sheetz, Wendy Frevert, Muff Rennick, Alexandria Truelsen with Elizabeth, and Linda Klemme.

See the original article at [wfi.com](http://wfi.com). The article was edited for publication in the CAPWI quarterly newsletter

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## *Head Start & Early Head Start Accepting Applications for 2018-2019*

Head Start and Early Head Start are accepting applications for the 2018-2019 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. 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 together as a family and to discuss topics that affect parenting and family life. Family incomes must be at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, and children must be age eligible to be considered for enrollment. 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/>

## *For Rent in Fowler*

We have 9 brand new Senior and/or Disabled units available for rent immediately. These are 2 bedroom units with roll-in shower, washer/dryer hook-ups, stove and refrigerator included. All utilities (electric/water/sewer/trash) are included. Each unit has a rear patio. All units are non-smoking and pet free (service animals only). Property has a beautiful courtyard, gazebo, shuffleboard, picnic area, and garden space.

\$200 security deposit  
 \$585 monthly rent

Our agency has a number of rental properties throughout our six county service area. Check our website for listings and availability at <https://www.capwi.org/services/housing/rental-properties/> Contact Donna VanEtta at 765-793-4881 for more information.



## *Needs Assessment Survey—We Need Your Help!!*

We are asking for your assistance in helping us plan for the future. Would you please take a few moments to give us your perspective about the needs in your community and/or your client's needs? We have tried to make this a practically painless effort. Please go to our website at [www.capwi.org](http://www.capwi.org) click on "We want to hear from you" on the home page and take the very short survey. In addition, we are asking you to have everyone you come in contact with (clients, family and members of your community) to complete the survey as well. All responses have an important impact on the decisions we make as an agency to best meet the needs of our constituents and the communities we serve. I certainly value and appreciate your input! It truly does take a village.



Muff Rennick, Executive Director

## *MAC Van Driver Needed*

MAC (Mobility for Area Citizens) Van is a service that provides transportation for elderly and disabled persons in Fountain and Warren counties. 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, 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. We are currently in need of a driver. Primarily responsible for safely transporting the eligible elderly and disabled ridership of Fountain and/or Warren counties and for ensuring that vans are properly maintained, fueled, and cleaned.



For a full job description and/or to complete an application visit our website at <https://www.capwi.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> or call Tammy Nickle at Program Coordinator at (765) 762-0420.

Other employment opportunities are also available through the link above.

## *Energy Assistance Program*

Our energy assistance program is still taking applications. This program helps in lowering utility bills with a one-time benefit during the winter heating season. For more information, requirements, and household eligibility contact the Community Action Program office nearest you or visit our website at <https://www.capwi.org/services/housing/energy-assistance/>

Benton County	765-385-0623
Fountain/Warren County	765-793-4881
Montgomery County	765-362-4096
Parke/Vermillion County	765-832-7771



418 WASHINGTON ST.  
PO BOX 188  
COVINGTON, IN 47932

PHONE: 765-793-4881  
FAX: 765-793-4884

**OUR PROGRAMS  
AND  
SERVICES HELP  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
COMMUNITIES  
WORK  
THROUGH  
ECONOMIC  
INSECURITY BY  
REVITALIZING  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND HELPING  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
FAMILIES BECOME  
MORE**



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## New CAPWI Mission Statement

**“To empower communities, families and individuals toward self-sufficiency by removing the causes and conditions of poverty through services, support, and education.”**

### The Importance of Community Service Block Grants (CSBG)

Community Action believes that our country can't thrive unless our communities and families do. The future of America depends on everyone in urban, suburban, and rural places doing well. Our communities are stronger when all people can realize their full potential and contribute to their local community. At some point in their lives everyone needs a helping hand. Community Action, through its 1,000 plus local agencies, both private and public, is a trusted source of support for over 15 million people in more than 6 million families annually across America. Community Action's local control and flexibility form a solid foundation for generating solutions to address the complex causes of poverty in local communities. Community Action uses sophisticated management and accountability practices to integrate a wide array of federal, state, and private resources in the creation of healthy and vibrant communities that provide opportunities for individuals and families to succeed.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act, the federal legislation governing Community Action Agencies (CAAs), requires states to work through the Community Action Network—the nationwide system of over 1,000 local CAAs—to connect families and individuals to opportunities to move from poverty to economic security. CAAs are trusted local organizations uniquely positioned to address the causes of poverty specific to their individual communities.

Through grants to states and local agencies, the CSBG Act defines, supports, and enforces the unique features of Community Action. Local agencies must meet federal requirements to be formally designated as a Community Action Agency and receive CSBG funds. These requirements ensure that low-income individuals and others in the community have a voice in planning and oversight of local programs, that initiatives respond to locally identified needs, and that resources are coordinated and used effectively. States use their portion of CSBG funds to monitor local agency performance and coordinate antipoverty resources statewide. CSBG is the only dedicated funding source that supports core Community Action functions. CAAs are highly successful at leveraging their small CSBG allotments to obtain a wide array of other public and private resources that address local causes and conditions of poverty. This success results from the agencies' formal designation as Community Action Agencies and from the extensive efforts of their staff and board members in conducting needs assessments, developing innovative strategies, coordinating with community partners, identifying public and private resources, and securing competitive grant funds. CSBG funds support these critical activities, along with fundamental agency operations and infrastructure. CSBG provides flexible funds to support gap-filling activities that address unmet needs, innovative initiatives to combat poverty and promote self-sufficiency, and rapid response to urgent community needs. CAAs identify causes and conditions of poverty that may not be addressed through an existing program or for which existing resources are not adequate. CSBG funds are used alone and in combination with other resources to support important antipoverty initiatives that would not otherwise be possible.

Source: Community Action Partnership

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