

Offer *hope*

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messenger

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Volunteers of America of **Indiana**

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TO BREAK GROUND SOON ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS IN GARY, INDIANA

Volunteers of America National Services, in collaboration with Volunteers of America of Indiana, will be breaking ground soon on the development of a 39-unit senior housing center in Gary, Indiana. The facility will be located at the intersection of 5th Street and Carolina Street in Gary.

Through a HUD 202 capital grant, an allocation of funding has been approved that will enable Volunteers of America to develop a three-story

building with 38 one-bedroom/bath apartment units for low-income elderly, with one additional two-bedroom apartment for an onsite manager. The units will contain a living room/dining room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The community area will include a lobby/lounge, library, laundry room and administrative office.

Stay tuned for further developments! The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2012.



39-unit senior housing center in Gary, Indiana

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THE LONG HAUL

by *Tim Campbell, President/CEO*

As updated economic statistics are released each month, Hoosiers

can take some comfort knowing that we are faring a bit better than citizens of surrounding states. Still, the pace of economic recovery is painstakingly slow. If you are one of the thousands of Indiana residents seeking employment, recovery can't come fast enough. If you have additional barriers to employment, such as limited educational achievement, limited job experience, or a criminal history, things look downright bleak.

The unemployed are not alone in these trying times. Those Hoosiers in their retirement years are facing economic challenges as well. It's difficult to stretch a fixed retirement income. Nonetheless, food, energy, and healthcare costs continue to rise.

Even though the nation's economy slipped into the downturn quickly, most experts agree that it will take years to return to what we used to consider "normal". Unfortunately, there are no simple fixes that will speed up the recovery process. Like it or not, we are all in this situation for the long haul.

Those we serve at Volunteers of America of Indiana, including limited-income seniors, honorably discharged veterans struggling with homelessness, and men and women returning from the correctional system all require "long haul" solutions. For our seniors, the challenge is to help them remain as active, independent, and involved as possible, despite their very limited resources. For our veterans, the challenge is to help them put their lives back in order after their often-traumatizing military service. The face of homelessness among veterans is changing, as we see increasing numbers of young, Gulf War-era men and women. For our correctional clients, the challenge is to help them gain the skills necessary to live productive, crime-free lives. The challenge is also to guide their children down a different path than that chosen by their parents. The positive youth development focus of our Look Up and Hope Program promises a better future for these children of incarcerated parents.

Volunteers of America has been here in Indiana, helping Hoosiers in need for 115 years. We understand the "long haul" needs of the most at-risk in our communities. With your continued support, we can help individuals complete that long road to independence and success!

OUR MISSION

Offer Hope... Restore Dignity... Transform Lives...

Volunteers of America of Indiana is a faith-based organization that provides life-changing services to enhance the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual needs of individuals by providing counseling, rehabilitation, job placement, and residential services. We serve individuals transitioning from the correctional system, the elderly, and those battling chronic addiction and mental illness.

The Messenger is published by Volunteers of America of Indiana
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VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA HOSTS NATIONAL MEETING IN SIOUX FALL, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Volunteers of America National Meeting was held in Sioux Fall, South Dakota from June 11-14, 2011. The theme for this year's conference was "Many Gifts, One Spirit." Representatives from Volunteers of America offices across the nation were in attendance. Representing the Indiana affiliate at this year's conference included staff members Diana Anderson, Kimberly Barlow, Tim Campbell, Mary Leffler, Debi Marshall, Steve Runyon, Shannon Schumacher and Erin Weliver.



A highlight of the conference was the graduation of Debi Marshall and Steve Runyon from the Executive Development II class. Their graduation culminates a two-year intensive leadership program which provides valuable training and skill development to emerging leaders from across the national organization. Additionally, Erin Weliver was inducted into the Executive Development III class. She is scheduled to complete her course of study in June 2013.

During the week, Volunteers of America of Indiana was also the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Major League Baseball Players Trust for Children. This grant will be used to expand the Fatherhood Initiative at Hope Hall in Evansville, Indiana.



Tim Campbell receives check from MLBPT

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF VISIT INDIANA

National President Mike King visited the Indiana affiliate on June 20-21, 2011. While in Indiana, President King was able to visit both of the Indianapolis residential programs at Brandon Hall and Theodora House, met with the Board of Directors and shared his vision for the future of Volunteers of America with the Executive Management Team.

On Saturday, July 16, 2011 at the Indiana Black Expo, Jatrice Martel Gaiter, the Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Volunteers of America was the keynote speaker at the 28th Annual Diversity Volunteer Recognition Breakfast. This breakfast is in recognition of the outstanding, dedicated volunteers who are committed to volunteerism, responsive to the future of diversity and inclusiveness, and advocates for building a diverse community of volunteers. An audience of nearly 600 individuals was in attendance. Elizabeth (Nikki) Johnson, a faithful volunteer for the Indiana affiliate was a nominee in the category of Outstanding Service Award.



Tim Campbell with Mike King



Jatrice Martel Gaiter and Tim Campbell



Filling Backpacks

HOPE HALL HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLAST IN EVANSVILLE

Hope Hall's Back-to-School-Blast was a success! The party was held on Sunday, August 7th from 2-4 p.m. at the facility. Donations from area churches and retailers made it possible to provide backpacks, filled to the brim with school supplies, for 21 children!! Families enjoyed snacks, crafts and outdoor activities.

SO WHAT KEEPS KIDS UP AT NIGHT?

As adults we often use the phrase, "I was up all night worrying about this or that." Have you ever considered what the children of some of our clients may worry about? Recently at Summer Camp, Terra Muensterman, our Healing Families Counselor at Hope Hall in Evansville, explored that question. "How big are your worries?" Each child was given a ball of yarn and given an example of how big a worry might be. For example, a foot of yarn might be connected to "This is how big my worry might be that I am going to run out of milk at home." Some of the kids were having staff members hold the yarn at one end of a

basketball gym while they went to the other end and cut the piece. It was amazing to see how "big" their worries were and what they were writing down.



Worries

Thankfully, due to the support of our many community partners, our Healing Families Program, through the Look Up and Hope Component, are working to address these very real worries of the children of our clients.

Here are excerpts from their "worry shadow box" activity.

"I'm afraid my mom is going to leave me and my brother for a man."

"I don't want my mom or other family to get hit."

"My mom will not get out."

"We might not be together when she gets out."

"Dad is not going to get out."

"My mom might die."

"My mommy not being able to take me to school."

"My brother might die."

"My whole family might die."

"If my dad or brother would ever get hurt or die."

THANK YOU!!!!

The Ruth Lilly Philanthropic Foundation made a gift of \$56,000 to Theodora House of Volunteers of America of Indiana, demonstrating its continued support of our programs and services directly impacting women, their children, and families. Thank you for your continued support!



THEODORA HOUSE FAMILY COACH PROGRAM FULFILLING THE MISSION

The Family Coach Program at Theodora House currently is serving 15 families by providing emotional and psychological support for the mothers, caretakers, and children, as well as connecting these individuals with much needed community resources and providing barrier buster funds as needed.

Recently the Family Coach Program stepped up to the challenge of living our mission!!! One of the families consisted of a single mother, four children under the age of 12, and a baby on the way. The mother successfully completed her time of incarceration and was able to save enough money to afford rent and a down payment on a two-bedroom apartment for herself and her children. Unfortunately, she was then laid off from her job and made just enough money through unemployment to pay rent and utilities.

Consequently, she and the children were living in an apartment furnished only with two full-sized air mattresses that the entire family was sharing throughout the day and night. She had no other furniture in the home.

Through the Family Coach Program, staff members advertised and accepted donations for household items for the family. A truck was rented, the donations were gathered and then the items were delivered and unloaded into the apartment. The children were ecstatic!!! In less than one hour, a previously empty apartment was transformed into a fully furnished home!

We are planning to continue this outreach for other families in need as mothers reenter from incarceration and are working to reestablish themselves into society.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR AND VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA – GET NAP TAX CREDITS

Volunteers of America of Indiana received Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits for the 2011-12 fiscal year in the amount of \$12,000. Help us raise \$24,000 in donations for our Healing Families Program by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 or more qualifying you for a 50% Indiana state income tax credit (or half of your donation amount). It is easy to do and will really make a difference to us, you, and all of our neighborhood services!

Example: \$500 donation to VOA = \$250 NAP credit to you
 \$100 donation to VOA = \$50 NAP credit to you

Your NAP tax credit amount is always one-half of your donated amount. Simply contact our Development Office at 317-686-5807 to get more information and to complete the NC-10 Form that is submitted to the Indiana Department of Revenue. We do everything for you – please help us help our clients through this unique tax credit opportunity!

NAP credits are sold on a first-come, first-served basis until they are gone. You are encouraged to make your donation before December 31 to be eligible for the tax credit on your 2011 taxes. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted, as well as stock donations. NAP contributions can also be claimed as a federal tax deduction.





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Please contact Diana Anderson at
Volunteers of America of Indiana
for information on ways to make a
difference.

317.686.5807
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types of gifts and estate planning.*

