

Offer *hope*

Restore *dignity*

Transform *lives*



messenger

www.voain.org

Volunteers of America of **Indiana**

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OF INDIANA CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW FACILITY IN FORT WAYNE

Liberty Landing, a new homeless shelter for veterans located at 2833 South Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne, held its Open House on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Renovations and inspections have just been completed, staff is being hired and trained, and residents will begin moving in by the end of January. It is estimated that there are 400 homeless veterans in the Fort Wayne area.

The facility has an eventual capacity of 49 residents, and anticipates serving 30 during its first year of operation. All homeless veterans must be approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs for admission into the program at Liberty Landing. They can remain there for up to two years as they develop the skills, financial and other resources they will need to move into permanent housing in the community. Funding for the facility was provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis and the Home Depot Foundation.

The Open House was very well attended, with representation from the Mayor's office, other local leaders and organizations, and the funders. The program was followed by refreshments and tours of the facility, which was decked out for the holidays with a number of poinsettias donated by Home Depot.

In the weeks since the Open House, Liberty Landing has been very warmly welcomed by a wide variety of people from throughout the area. We have received numerous calls from donors and volunteers offering their support for the new facility. Donations have included both cash and equipment to get us off to a good start! For further information on Liberty Landing, to make a donation or volunteer, contact Carol Cartwright at 260-755-6135.



Ceremonial First Flag Raising Over Liberty Landing

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A MEASURE OF HOPE

by *Tim Campbell, President/CEO*

Another year has drawn to a close, and a new year is beginning. For many in our community, 2011 was a year of great personal challenge. While experts debate over when the “recovery” began, most would agree that the pace of recovery has been painstakingly slow. Individuals who are battling homelessness, joblessness, or the challenges of substance abuse or mental illness have struggled to find much hope for their future.

Fortunately, we live in the Hoosier state, where people often choose to give of their time, talent, and resources to make a positive difference in the lives of their at-risk neighbors. Volunteers of America of Indiana, working in concert with hundreds of donors

and volunteers from throughout the community, has assisted more than one thousand Hoosiers in finding stable housing and securing gainful employment during the past year. These individuals are back on the road to independence, once again becoming contributing members of our community.

We offer our thanks to everyone who has helped Volunteers of America of Indiana offer hope, restore dignity, and transform lives! This past year, even with all of its challenges, was the beginning of a new, better life for many of those we served. With your continued support, 2012 will offer a great measure of hope to many more of those in need.

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.

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President/CEO
Mary Leffler, *Editor*

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Volunteers of America of Indiana Celebrates Opening of New Facility in Fort Wayne (cont.)



Color Guard Prepares to Present Colors



Open House Guests



Open House Crowd



*Indiana President/CEO
Tim Campbell welcomes
Open House Guests*



Crowd Gathers as Colors Are Presented



All Ready for Winter!

CROCHET FOR A CAUSE PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE TO “GIVE BACK”

Crochet for a Cause is a resident founded and resident maintained program at Theodora House based on the concept of restorative justice. Employing the concepts of restorative justice, our women who have previously engaged in activities that damaged society, have developed a method of stopping the cycle of crime and giving back to Indianapolis through crocheting.

Since October 2011 approximately 50 residents have been involved in crocheting stuffed animals, Christmas stockings, blankets, and over 250 sets of hats and scarves. After completing her first hat and scarf set, each woman is eligible to participate in a community service event in which our residents personally donate the items to Indianapolis citizens who are in need. Our first event in November was at a local women and children’s homeless shelter where we were able to give to over 50 women and children. In December, we had our second event which was a huge success!

During the second event, 12 residents and 4 staff traveled to Miracle Place in Indianapolis. Miracle Place is an after school center for at risk youth that was founded in 2000 by the Sisters of Providence. Miracle Place regularly serves approximately 50 children and their families on a daily basis offering community resources, tutoring, mentoring, and spiritual guidance to those in need.

The theme of this event was “Santa’s Workshop.” Miracle Place set up a “store” with donated items in their facility where each of their children could go “shopping” and pick an item for each of their family members. After picking the items, the children were paired with one of our residents to help with wrapping/packaging each of the gifts. While wrapping the gifts, our residents were able to get to talk with the children on a personal level and learn about their families and lives.

After gift wrapping, we set up three tables where nearly 150 sets of hats and scarves were displayed. Many of the 47 children who were present on this cold winter day had arrived without even a coat to keep them warm. By the end of the day, each of them were the proud owners of a brand new hat and scarf set as well as a hand crocheted stocking filled with Christmas candy. Many of the children’s family members received items as well.

Impressed by the eager compassion demonstrated by our women, the facilitators of the event genuinely thanked us for our contributions stating, “We have had this event for years and it has never been so wonderful! I hope that Volunteers of America can come back every year!” This was an opportunity in which our women were able to deeply experience and demonstrate the true meaning of the Christmas season.

Crochet for a cause has been made possible through many generous donations from VOA staff and members of our community. The program is growing rapidly as each week several more women join the cause and we continue to schedule and explore new volunteer opportunities!



Theodora House Residents Assist Shoppers at Miracle Place



HOLIDAY PARTIES FILL THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!

Clients and their families at our Hope Hall, Brandon Hall and Theodora House facilities enjoyed special time during the holiday season with their children and family members.



To kick things off on December 1st, Volunteers of America hosted a Holiday Open House and Toy Drive in the multi-purpose room at Theodora House. Toys, gifts (for kids and adults) and cash donations were received. These donations are vitally important to ensure that our clients and their families have a joyful holiday experience. Thank you to all who stopped by to visit, make a contribution and support the event.



Festivities started early, on December 3rd, with the Southeastern Church of Christ providing the residents of Theodora House with a brunch, followed by a performance by a magician, cookie decorating, craft activities and a visit from Santa to highlight the afternoon!! Fun, fun, fun!!!!



Santa was busy, busy, busy! Just one week later, on December 10th, Santa visited Brandon Hall and shared Christmas joy with the residents, their families, and friends. Staff members pitched in to serve a delicious meal. It was a great day for everyone!!!!

The Veterans at Brandon Hall were also treated on December 13, 2011 to a delicious holiday meal, provided by our friends at the Northview Christian Church.

Operation Rudolph was hosted at Hope Hall on December 11th with great attendance. The day included crafts, activities and a very special visit from Santa!!! Thanks to our friends at Bethany Christian Church for their ongoing support of Hope Hall.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NAP TAX CREDITS!!!

At publication time, Volunteers of America of Indiana has \$4,500 NAP (Neighborhood Assistance Program) tax credits still available. Donations received through the end of December, 2011, secured our goals for the first half of the fiscal year. NAP credits are sold on a first-come, first-served basis and any credits purchased now since January 1, 2012 will count toward an individual's or business's 2012 Indiana state income taxes. Thank you to all who have donated in support of the NAP program and the ultimate support it provides to our counseling programs and services at Volunteers of America. Questions or to acquire your NAP tax credits, please call Diana Anderson, Director of Development, at (317) 686-5807 or send an email to danderson@voain.org.





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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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*Consult your tax advisor regarding these
types of gifts and estate planning.*

