

VICTORY

Partnering. Preparing. Providing.



Organizational Insight

Dear Friends of CCH,
I have been on the board for five years, and I have seen first-hand how your help has provided for the homeless population in Michigan City.

Sand Castle has been able to provide homes and security for over 30 families last year and Grace Learning Center has been providing services and support for those families as well as other members in the community.

This year Keys to Hope Community Resource Center opened and is providing a day time center for anyone in need of help.

All of this could not be provided without your help. The board and directors of CCH hope you will continue to show your concern and support CCH. Nothing can be accomplished without you.

A donation can be made by sending a check or going on line to
www.citizens4homeless.org.

Sincerely,

Lila Hakim
Executive Board Member

Partnering with community difference makers, preparing participants for financially stable lives, and providing opportunities for personal growth are fundamentals within our Citizens Concerned for the Homeless organization.

Through these, we are witnesses to the sustaining victory over homelessness and poverty.



Citizens Concerned
for the Homeless,
Inc.
Spring 2016

Sand Castle Shelter

by Jim Musial

HONORING OUR VALUABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

It has been a wonderful first half of our fiscal year at Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families. To date, **we have already provided shelter and programs of growth to over 100 people (30 families)** which are much higher than average numbers of people served. More importantly, the average stay is 42 days and our primary metrics of success, increased income per family and permanent housing obtained, remains extremely high at 73% and 79%, respectively. These tremendous successes are due in part to the new state trend, and our current practice, of Coordinated Access, intensive collaborations with other existing programs serving the homeless, impoverished and disenfranchised of Michigan City and LaPorte County.

FACEBOOK

On the Facebook Page for Sand Castle Shelter, I often highlight Family Success Stories in which I describe the plight of a particular family when enrolling, what they accomplished when at Sand Castle, and their status upon graduation. Quite often, I find myself talking about the different community partners who helped empower our residents. Most often, I talk about our CCH sister programs, the Grace Learning Center and Keys to Hope Community Resource Center. Kristen Patterson and Lesley Saliga (Executive Directors at GLC and KTH) are often the very first stop for SCS residents in their return to self-sufficiency.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

There are many community partners who assist our residents on a more specific level. During their stay, the children of SCS are tutored by Ms. April



Burns from MCAS/Knapp Elementary). Adult residents may find themselves seeking assistance from Ed Seal or Kendria White (Swanson Center PATH Team) or Nancy Knight-Miller from Vocational Rehabilitation. All residents who have no health insurance are served by Donnicka Hurt of Covering Kids and Families or assisted by Nila Williams at Health Link. Residents who struggle with a history of addiction are mentored by Toni Mandeville or are part of her MRT Program offered at Keys to Hope. Residents suffering from emotional barriers are taught by Michelle Alexander, LCSW (Classes at both SCS and KTH) or are offered free individual therapy. Kristen Patterson of GLC teaches our residents how to build a successful resume and how to seek jobs on the internet. Former CCH Board President Nancy Philippi teaches our residents basic computer skills, something our computer challenged individuals need to navigate job and services websites.

Ed Merrion teaches a self-sufficiency workshop at Catholic Charities. When successfully completed, Catholic Charities offers up to one month's rent upon SCS graduation. Housing Opportunities selects 3 or 4 families a year and offers matching funds equal to what SCS spends on the residents. The low income program of Michigan City Housing Authority helps place qualified

residents graduating SCS. Marv LaRue ("Marv the Furniture Guy") helps supply many of our graduates with free donated furniture. This is just an example of our partners who work with our residents during their time with us.

Hail! Hail!
Jim the
Facebook King



A great way to keep track of our daily ins and outs, is to **check out our Facebook pages**- especially with Sand Castle Shelter.

Nearly daily, Jim finds a way to promote the goodness and success taking place with our community partners and shelter participants.

To get in on the fun, go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/10058thst/?fref=ts>

SCS FAST FACT

In the past 12 months, 72 SCS resident children have worked with tutors provided by MCAS.

Grace Learning Center

by Kristen Patterson

JOB PREP PARTICIPANTS ARE GARDENERS TOO!

Through a few community grants, those enrolled in our Job Preparation Program can now earn extra money by tending to our garden.

Participants can earn \$10 a week by raking, tilling, sorting, and cleaning our garden area.

This month already, two participants braved the cold rain to put in their time. Not only did they do a great job and finish the assigned tasks early, but they showed up 15 minutes early and never complained the entire time. How many employers can say that?

Our participants want to work and are willing to put in the extra effort it takes to prove themselves to La Porte County employers.

The work sign-up sheet was full within 5 minutes, and there is a waiting list to get into next month's round of classes.

Thank goodness some granters saw what a big difference this could make for our clients and our community.

One thing is for sure, GLC will have the best looking garden in all of La Porte County if this kind of quality work keeps up.



LEARNING ON THE RISE

When GLC started 2012, there was only one tutoring pair. The man, J, was learning how to read. He was at a first grade level. That pair continues to be dedicated to his cause, has increased the amount of days he tutors, and that man is now reading at a 4th grade level. J had been in special education classes his whole life and managed to get a job, but felt something was missing. He now can read newspapers, flyers, and his own mail. His reading helped him get a new job, and it brings stability to his life.

He is one case of a success. Now GLC maintains a **tutoring roster between 12- 14 learners**. A quarter of the learners are coming to learn to read just like J. GLC also helps those who are lower level learners who want to get their High School Equivalency as well as at-risk teens who are in danger of flunking out of high school.

GLC FAST FACT	
123 people	From January 1 st till the March, GLC has helped 123 people accomplish 575 goals

STRONG TUTORING, STRONG SUPPORT

As GLC's tutoring program has grown over the years, so have the relationships between tutor and learner. We work very hard at keeping boundaries between the clients and tutors, but sometimes our tutors become like family.

This winter, our clients have had tutors who comforted their learner through family loss, written get well cards, kept in touch over the social media, and have driven their learner when it was just plain cold!



With community support like this, we have seen only one learner drop tutoring, when we used to see many more leaving during the colder months. Learners see GLC as not only their tutoring spot, but a home away from home. A home where they feel loved, seen, and cared for in an empowering way.

Without your support of our programs, we would not be seeing the upswing of success, so thank you!



PARTICIPANTS in the JOB PREPARATION PROGRAM have already prepared the garden for its Spring planting.

Keys to Hope CRC

by Lesley Saliga

A SWEET SEASON

The Keys to Hope Resource Center (KTH) began the end of its first season on a sweet note with Valentine's Day this year! The work at Keys to Hope is truly a labor of Love and nothing less! KTH is just 2 weeks shy of our year anniversary. Opening our doors on April 13, 2015, we had high hopes and positive expectations, and although we have experienced many battles and had our share of heartbreaks, we have been victorious!

We have helped house 31 people and 38 participants have obtained and/or retained jobs with KTH assistance through daily case management from the center and from our wonderful partner agencies. Staying true to the ABC's to self-sufficiency, KTH participants have accessed 4099 showers, **2315 uses of the laundry units, 210 haircuts and 3633 uses of the computer with internet access.** We have provided **104 class sessions with 738 participants.**

Our newest class, led by Toni Mandeville, is the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) class. MRT participants have taken their first step on a new journey to self-discovery and personal improvement. Through MRT, they learn new behavior skills to aid in making better life choices and accept accountability for their actions. KTH is very pleased with this new addition and appreciates Toni's care and resolve.

WHO IS LIZETTE?

KTH would also like to welcome our new AmeriCorps volunteer, Lizette Roman, who has been continuing our Volunteer Growth Program...maintaining relations with our favorite partners and developing new ones every day. Thank you Lizette!!!



REACHING OUT

Our Outreach team is constantly looking for those who have slipped through the cracks. Mike K. has been heading up the project and has been the extra muscle, moving our participants from homeless to house; overlooked to involved.

KTH FAST FACT

Lesley Saliga filled some very big shoes when she agreed to take on the position of director at Keys to Hope CRC. She has given us more than 2,000 hours of quality work, and our program would not be the success it is without the time, patience, passion, and organization she gave. **WE WILL MISS YOU!**



Can you believe it? Our newest addition, Keys to Hope Community Resource Center turned **1** on **April 13th!**

CCH Organization Information

Our Board of Directors

Tom McCormick, President
Rachel Saxon, VP
Amy Penrod, Secretary
Joshua Moran, Treasurer
Michael Bergerson
Lila Hakim
Ed Merrion
Willie Milsap
Gene Simmons

Want to contact us about something you see?

Sand Castle Shelter

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Grace Learning Center

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Kristen Patterson, Director

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center

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Lesley Saliga, Director

For more information and the latest news, check out: www.citizens4homeless.org
Or, even better, "Like" our pages on Facebook!

