



WELCOME TO

The Community Action Newsletter



MOMENTUM & GROWTH

Moving CAGI Forward

Growth, discipline, and opportunity remain at the heart of everything we do at CAGI. Our physical and programmatic landscapes are both evolving rapidly to better serve our community. We are pleased to share that the parking garage demolition is continuing successfully, clearing the way for the future of our physical campus.

Parallel to these structural improvements, the impact of our collective work is clear. From the successful launch of seven new small businesses within our We CANN program to our Housing Counseling team reaching over 250 individuals with financial literacy workshops, we are seeing transformation in action.

We are not simply helping our neighbors find jobs or housing; we are helping them build sustainable income and long-term stability. This newsletter highlights these recent accomplishments and the strategic steps we are taking—such as our transition to a workforce development model—to ensure our participants are not only job-ready, but life-ready.



STRIVING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS DAILY!

- **What we've done:** Assisted 38 Synergy participants with job readiness and helped transition individuals into safe, affordable housing.
- **What we're doing:** Serving as a central hub for Synergy participants, connecting them to essential resources like pantry services and the Energy Assistance Program (EAP).
- **The Future:** Aiming to expand job placement opportunities and grow participation in the STAR Program and other workforce initiatives. [READ MORE](#)





COMMUNITY ACTION WE CANN CHAMPIONS

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We CANN Presents:

BLUEPRINT TO BUSINESS
for Justice-Involved Individuals

The REDI (Re-Entry Entrepreneurship Development Initiative)
8 Week Training Schedule
Class Days: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Entrepreneur Mindset
• Free-Haircut-Friday

Men Ages 18+ Welcome

Location:
3266 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208 # Suite 305
Phone: 463-230-8971 Ms. Jacquie
or
email: Ms. Shelia at sdumes@cagi-in.org

INDY CHAMBER | BOREDi

Workforce Development

- **What we've done:** Successfully completed Blueprint to Business Cohort 1 with 15 "Champions". This resulted in seven participants launching their own businesses, including mobile pet grooming, lawn care, logistics, motor vehicle detailing, and a curated infant product resource.
- **What we're doing:** Transitioning to a workforce development model with a focus on stabilization services and 18 months of structured coaching to ensure participants are "life-ready".
- **The Future:** Launching Cohort 2 and expanding strategic partnerships with IndyGo, the Indianapolis Urban League, and CAGI's own Weatherization Program to create career advancement pathways. [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY ACTION STRIVING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS



COMMUNITY ACTION FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT TODAY

HOUSING COUNSELING, FINANCIAL LITERACY, IDA

- **What we've done:** Served 259 individuals through Homebuyer Education and Financial Literacy workshops in 2025. Key leadership successfully passed the HUD housing counseling certification test.
- **What we're doing:** Managing five Individual Development Account (IDA) contracts for over 23 clients and developing a new job readiness curriculum.
- **The Future:** Goals for 2027 include increasing the number of IDA contracts and hiring additional staff to meet the growing demand for counseling services.

[READ MORE](#)



"THE SECRET OF CHANGE IS TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY NOT ON FIGHTING THE OLD, BUT ON BUILDING THE NEW."

— SOCRATES



SECURING RESOURCES TO FUEL COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION!

- **What we've done:** Celebrated six decades of community impact by successfully hosting CAGI's 60th Anniversary Partnership Luncheon for stakeholders and elected officials. The department secured \$850,000 in grant funding and completed the development and sale of 10 affordable homes in the Riverside neighborhood.
- **What we're doing:** Expanding the reach of the WE CANN Champions program through a transformative \$250,000 IAAQLI grant. Current priorities include serving over 100 individuals through legal clinics in partnership with IU Health, launching the agency's first-ever direct mail campaign to diversify fundraising, and driving neighborhood revitalization in Martindale-Brightwood.
- **The Future:** Focused on growing individual and legacy giving while securing multi-year funding commitments to ensure long-term sustainability. The department aims to increase affordable housing inventory and expand credential pathways and employer partnerships for program participants. [READ MORE](#)



The Finance Department Building the Infrastructure for Community Impact.



- **What we've done:** Successfully transitioned 71% of all department payments to electronic formats.
- **What we're doing:** Preparing for upcoming audits scheduled for the first week of June.
- **The Future:** Launching a SharePoint site in May to allow Department Directors to monitor payment activity for their specific programs.

[READ MORE](#)



Expanding Outreach & Opportunity

- **What we've done:** Maintained full program functionality while streamlining internal processes to reduce delays in leasing and eligibility. The team also improved inspection quality by aligning practices with NSPIRE standards.
- **What we're doing:** Focused on supporting families throughout the HCV lifecycle with an emphasis on customer service and landlord engagement.
- **The Future:** Implementing process improvements to further reduce wait times and expanding outreach to recruit new landlords and increase housing opportunities.

[READ MORE](#)



REDUCING ENERGY COSTS & CREATING HEALTHIER LIVING SPACES.

- **What we've done:** Weatherized 93 homes across Marion, Hamilton, Boone, and Hendricks counties through the LIHEAP 25 program.
- **What we're doing:** Improving internal workflows via Monday.com and continuing to provide free energy efficiency improvements (insulation, furnace repair, etc.) to eligible residents.
- **The Future:** Preparing for the close-out of DOE and IJJA grants in June 2026 and partnering with the John Boner Neighborhood Center for emergency repairs.

[READ MORE](#)





BRIDGING GENERATIONS, BUILDING FUTURES.

- **What we've done:** Hosted the annual Senior Expo in April with 32 vendors and approximately 160 senior participants.
- **What we're doing:** Conducting bi-weekly visits to senior apartment complexes to assist with the Rental Bridge Program and nutritional health.
- **The Future:** Seeking new grants to support "barrier-busting" for seniors and expanding outreach to more senior communities. [READ MORE](#)



The CAGI Wellness Hub has hit the ground running, establishing itself as a vital cornerstone for community engagement since its successful open house. By opening its doors on the 9th floor the Hub has seamlessly transitioned from a grand debut to a consistent venue for professional and personal growth. It has already successfully hosted several networking events, such as the CAGI Connect series, which bring together local businesses and residents to discuss critical topics like stress management and holistic health. These gatherings have proven that the Hub is more than just a physical space; it is a thriving incubator for collaboration and wellness within Indianapolis.

THURSDAY APR 30
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Join us for
CAGI CONNECT
Connecting People. Strengthening Communities.

YOU'RE INVITED TO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

CAGI Wellness Hub
2356 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN
9th Floor

Join us for an engaging wellness conversation focused on how stress affects physical health, emotional balance, and everyday functioning, and what you can do about it.

Join us for a community-driven discussion where participants are invited to engage, contribute, and learn about the effects of stress on overall health.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Gain the research on wellness:

- * The connection between stress, hormones, and chronic disease
- * Physical signs your body is under prolonged stress
- * Practical strategies to reduce stress and support overall health
- * Community connection and informal networking

This month's theme is:
The Effects of Stress on Overall Health
Understanding how chronic stress impacts the body, mind, and long-term well-being.

Presented by: **COMMUNITY ACTION** **Huntington Bank** **Color**

Submit Your Department Story For June!

Help us show that at CAGI, transformation is happening. We are now collecting highlights for the June newsletter to ensure every department's impact is recognized. Submit your recent accomplishments and upcoming plans to keep our team informed and inspired.

SUBMIT HERE!



CAAP History



Outstanding Unsung Heroes

Emma O. Johnson was more than just a namesake for a building; she was a pioneer, missionary, and advocate who dedicated her life to *"training and helping people, no matter who or what they were"*. Her 11-year tenure as an employee with **Community Action** solidified her role as a cornerstone of the agency's mission to serve the elderly and vulnerable.

Historical Accomplishments & Contributions

Her primary contribution to the Indianapolis area was her advocacy for vulnerable populations, specifically low-income seniors. Her impact is memorialized in the following ways:

- **A "Missionary for Christ":** Arriving in Indianapolis in 1946, she was deeply involved in the religious community, serving as the state president of the General Baptist Women's Convention and introducing the "women's day" concept to church members.
- **Operational Innovations:** She developed Operation Late Start and created and managed 10 senior citizen centers across Indianapolis.
- **Economic Advocacy:** During her "pioneer days," she successfully lobbied for half-fare bus rates for seniors and achieved discounts on commodities and taxi services for the elderly.
- **Senior Empowerment:** Her Greenleaves Program provided critical training and employment opportunities specifically for senior citizens.
- **National & Local Recognition:** She was a recipient of the Community Services Council CASPER Award and the Outstanding Black Woman Award from the National Council of Negro Women.

The Legacy of Emma O Johnson Lives On.

Emma O. Johnson Homes or *EOJ* is a prominent senior housing complex located at 819 Edgemont Avenue in the Center township of Indianapolis. Completed in 1991, this multi-story apartment building features 50 units (a mix of studios and one-bedroom apartments). It was developed to provide safe, affordable, and dignified living spaces for elderly residents who might otherwise struggle to find quality housing. EOJ is one of three key affordable housing properties managed by CAGI, an organization that emerged from the federal *"War on Poverty"*. Johnson's namesake represents a commitment to the agency's mission of reducing poverty, improving community welfare, and providing safe and affordable housing.



3266 Meridian Professional Partners

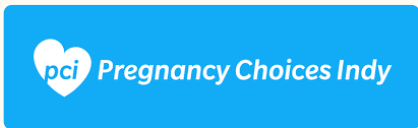


Profound People Home Care

QUALITY CARE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST—AT HOME

What we're doing: We are focused on providing high-quality, personalized in-home care that supports independence and daily living. Our team prioritizes consistent care, strong caregiver/client relationships, and maintaining safe, supportive home environments.

The Future: We plan to expand community outreach to grow our client base and build local partnerships. Our goals include enhancing services such as non-medical transportation and home delivered meal support, while continuing to improve care coordination and overall service delivery.



You have time. We will listen.

Pregnancy Choices Indy is a group of five pregnancy resource centers in Central Indiana that offer confidential services free of charge to our clients. Click "Need Help" below to schedule your appointment.

[NEED HELP?](#)



REDISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH
HEALING AND HOPE.

At Synergy Recovery Network, we understand the unique challenges women face in overcoming addiction. Our level IV certified Recovery Residences & IOP program provides a safe, nurturing environment where you can focus on healing and self-discovery

[CLICK HERE](#)