



WELCOME TO

The Community Action Newsletter



FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

Building on Our Progress

Last month, we celebrated the rapid evolution of our physical and programmatic landscapes. Today, that vision is visibly taking shape. We are proud to announce the completion of the parking garage demolition, marking an important step in transforming our physical campus. This moment reflects the new beginnings and forward momentum we strive to create each day.

As we clear away the past, our focus is entirely on building the new. This month marks the launch of exciting new programs and community events designed to take our workforce development model to the next level. We are watching our participants take bold, measurable steps toward becoming truly "life-ready," supported by an expanding network of strategic resources and local partnerships.

Transformation is happening in real-time. This issue highlights the fresh initiatives kicking off this month, the strategic steps we are taking to deepen our community impact, and the dedicated daily efforts driving lasting stability across Greater Indianapolis. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a brighter, more sustainable future.

STRIVING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS DAILY!

- **What we've done:** In partnership with the Synergy Recovery Network, Client Services successfully transitioned two participants into safe housing and four into employment, while expanding the STAR Program's individualized coaching to move families from crisis to stability.
- **What we're doing:** The team is actively managing Synergy caseloads, building Client Services into CAGI's centralized intake hub, and expanding pantry operations ahead of a site visit with Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana to formalize a partnership.
- **The Future:** Moving forward, CAGI will launch its enhanced centralized intake model, forge new community partnerships to expand support access, and strengthen the STAR Program as a cornerstone for building long-term individual self-reliance [READ MORE](#)





The Business Blueprint

COMMUNITY ACTION WE CANN CHAMPIONS

Scan Below to Register

We CANN Presents:

BLUEPRINT TO BUSINESS

for Justice-Involved Individuals

Register Now!

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 BOI REDi

We CANN continues creating pathways that keep individuals safe, alive, and productive by equipping Champions with opportunities for workforce development, entrepreneurship, leadership growth, and long-term support. We remain committed to walking alongside participants beyond the classroom experience through individualized coaching, barrier reduction support, and sustainable career pathways.

We are excited to announce the launch of **Blueprint to Business Cohort 2**, developed in partnership with the BOI REDi Program and Indy Chamber initiative. This 8-week workforce and entrepreneurship experience is designed to empower justice-involved individuals through practical skill development and exposure to business and career opportunities.

Cohort Dates:

17 First Day of Class: Monday, June 1, 2026

Program Schedule:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

[READ MORE](#)



EMPOWER YOUR FINANCES, SECURE YOUR FUTURE, AND BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR GOALS.

- **Financial Literacy Cohort:** Take control of your money and build a secure future by joining our Financial Literacy Cohort, running **Saturdays** from **June 13 to June 25 at 11:30 AM.**

Visit: <https://cagi-in.org/financial-education/>



- **Homebuyers Education Cohort:** Discover exactly what it takes to buy a home and evaluate your financial readiness on: **Saturday, June 13 at 11:30 AM.**

Visit: <https://cagi-in.org/homebuyer-education/>

or scan the QR code below:



- **Individual Development Accounts (IDA):** Spots are filling up fast, but we still have very limited openings left to match your savings and accelerate your financial goals through our IDA program!

Contact: nice@cagi-in.org for more information!



Growth & Community

- **Upcoming Luncheon:** The HCV team is hosting a *Landlord Engagement Luncheon* on August 19, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM for partners, landlords, and stakeholders to discuss program updates and affordable housing initiatives.
- **Community Outreach:** The team is participating in the Hamilton County Community Resource & Health Fair on June 5, 2026, to connect residents with local support services and resources.
- **Program Growth:** Through new landlord partnerships, the HCV Program has successfully added 44 new vouchers, expanding housing access and options for participants across Hamilton County and surrounding areas.

[READ MORE](#)



WEATHERIZATION MILESTONES: GRID EFFICIENCY, SOLAR EXPANSION, AND FUTURE GROWTH

- **Recent Events & Highlights:** The department partnered with the John Boner Neighborhood Center for urgent furnace repairs and is currently seeking eligible, previously weatherized homeowners to receive no-cost solar energy systems through INCAA's new Solar Power Program.
- **Future Forecast:** Looking ahead, the department is preparing for IJA funding that will exceed its \$1.3 million request, onboarding three new interested contractors, and expanding outreach to grow production and scale the Solar Power Program.

[READ MORE](#)





COMMUNITY ACTION FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

BRIDGING GENERATIONS, BUILDING FUTURES.

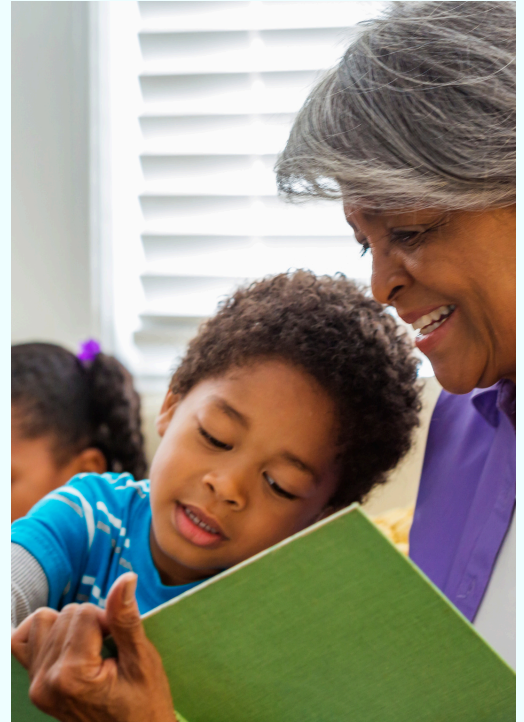
Senior Lunch & Learn

- Every Tuesday, seniors are invited to the Frederick Douglass Community Center for a weekly Senior Lunch & Learn to explore healthy eating habits and enjoy a delicious meal in a friendly environment. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and support your well-being; for more information, contact Shelida Purnell at (317) 524-6860 or Joni Collins at (317) 524-6859.

Foster Grandparent Program

- As the school year ends, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Foster Grandparent volunteers for bringing countless smiles, wisdom, and encouragement to the children they served. We wish our dedicated grandparents a relaxing, well-deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming them back when school resumes in the fall.

[READ MORE](#)



THE CAGI Connect Networking Event

Building on this incredible momentum, the **CAGI Wellness Hub** is committed to keeping our community connected, inspired, and growing together. We are thrilled to announce that our signature networking series is expanding into a regular tradition! Moving forward, the **CAGI Connect Networking event** will take place **every final Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM.**

Whether you are a local entrepreneur looking to collaborate, a professional seeking to expand your network, or a resident passionate about personal well-being, this monthly gathering is your space to connect. Each session will continue to bring together diverse voices from across Indianapolis to share resources, spark new ideas, and foster a healthier, more connected city. Mark your calendars for the last Thursday of each month, head up to the 9th floor, and join us as we continue to grow this thriving incubator of wellness and collaboration together.

Submit Your Department Story For July!

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!](#)



Historical Philanthropists



Madam C.J. Walker

Widely recognized as America's first self-made female millionaire, Madam Walker built a beauty and haircare empire that she intentionally used as a tool for racial uplifting and economic justice. For Walker, philanthropy was not an afterthought of wealth, but the very blueprint of her business model. She employed and trained thousands of Black women as independent sales agents, actively pulling them out of low-wage domestic labor and equipping them with financial autonomy.

Her giving strategy seamlessly combined direct institutional funding with fierce political advocacy. She contributed a record-breaking \$1,000 (at that time) to the building fund of the colored YMCA in Indianapolis, funded massive scholarships for young women at the Tuskegee Institute, and became one of the most vital financial lifelines for the NAACP's anti-lynching campaigns.

To ensure her impact survived her, Walker legally mandated her philanthropy into the corporate charter of the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company, stipulating that two-thirds of the company's net profits must permanently be donated to benevolent institutions and charities. In her final will and testament, she left a massive portion of her personal estate to individuals and organizations fighting for racial equality, permanently cementing her legacy as a pioneer of strategic corporate and social giving.



New Community Action Event!

Harmony & Healing Open Mic Series

A New Space for Expression, Connection, and Community Healing

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI) is excited to introduce Harmony & Healing Hip Hop Open Mic, a dynamic new community initiative designed to empower voices, foster creativity, and promote wellness through the transformative power of hip hop culture and artistic expression.

This monthly event creates a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where participants can share their talents, stories, experiences, and perspectives through Hip-Hop, Rap, and R&B. (We may soon open the floor to other forms of creative expression.) More than just an open mic, Harmony & Healing serves as a platform for community connection, personal growth, healing, and positive dialogue.

Recognizing the importance of creating age-appropriate spaces, the program will now feature two dedicated sessions:

Youth Session

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

(Clean Music Only!)

Designed for youth and young adults to showcase their creativity, build confidence, develop communication skills, and connect with peers in a supportive environment.

Adult Session

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

(Express yourself! Parental Advisory May Contain Explicit Language)

A space for adults to express themselves through performance, storytelling, and dialogue while building community connections and celebrating the rich culture and history of hip hop.

Event Details

Harmony & Healing Hip Hop Open Mic

Friday, June 26, 2026

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI)

3266 N. Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46208

At CAGI, we believe that creative expression is a powerful tool for healing, self-discovery, and community engagement. Harmony & Healing aligns with our mission to empower individuals and strengthen communities by providing opportunities for residents to connect, share experiences, and celebrate their unique voices.

We invite our staff, partners, community members, artists, educators, and advocates to join us in supporting this exciting new initiative. Whether attending, performing, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, your involvement helps create a space where creativity, culture, and healing can thrive.

Together, let's build a community where every voice is heard and every story matters.

Harmony & Healing: Where Expression Meets Empowerment.



3266 Meridian Professional Partner Spotlight



PHOTO SOURCE: INDY STAR

Dr. Eric A. Yancy, MD

AN OUTSTANDING PILLAR IN OUR COMMUNITY!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible building partner, Dr. Yancy, for his ongoing support and collaboration with CAGI.

Having dedicated professionals like Dr. Yancy in our space strengthens our community and enhances the vital work we do every day. His commitment to partnership helps us drive meaningful impact right here in Indianapolis.

Thank you, Dr. Yancy, for your shared vision, your collaborative spirit, and your dedication to making a difference alongside the CAGI team!



It's your choice.

Providing a complete spectrum of support, from free medical-grade pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to essential baby supplies and peer counseling. We are here to empower you with the knowledge, resources, and care you need to navigate the future with confidence.

[NEED HELP?](#)



REDISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH
HEALING AND HOPE.

Ready to get your life back on track? Synergy Recovery Network offers women a specialized, empowering environment to heal from addiction and build lifelong bonds. Through trauma-informed care, relapse prevention, and robust aftercare support, our team equips you with the exact tools you need for a healthy, fulfilling future. Call us today at 317-762-0111 or visit synergyrecoverynetwork.com to complete an online application and start your journey.

[CLICK HERE](#)