

WELCOME TO

The Community Action Newsletter



"CLEARING THE WAY FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION"

Rising From the Ground Up

The image says it all. Where a parking garage once stood, open sky now stretches above freshly cleared earth and the view from above tells the story of what's coming next.

As of this writing, the demolition phase of our campus transformation is complete. The rubble has been pushed aside, the ground has been leveled, and the machines are already preparing what comes next. This is not an ending. This is the foundation of something entirely new.

For years, that structure represented the past and the way things were, the constraints we worked within. Today, looking out over that open lot, we see something different: possibility. Space to build. Room to grow. A canvas for the future of Community Action in Greater Indianapolis.

This August, as crews continue site work and planning advances toward the next phase of development, CAGI's programmatic momentum isn't slowing down, it's accelerating. New workforce development cohorts are underway. Community partnerships forged over the past year are producing real results. Participants who entered our doors seeking stability are leaving with jobs, credentials, and confidence.

The physical transformation of our campus mirrors the transformation happening every day in the lives of the people we serve. The ground is ready. The work continues. And Greater Indianapolis is watching something powerful take shape, one brick, one life, one step at a time.

STRIVING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS DAILY!

- **Welcome Our New Case Manager:** We're excited to welcome Edward Ball to the Client Services team as our newest Case Manager. Edward brings experience in workforce development, participant engagement, peer support, and employment coaching. His addition strengthens our ability to provide comprehensive case management and support participants as they work toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency.
- **Continued Participant Success:** Client Services continued providing individualized case management, resource navigation, housing stabilization, employment support, emergency assistance, and referrals to internal and community resources to help participants move from crisis toward stability.
- **Building a Neighborhood Resource Hub:** Client Services is continuing work to transform the pantry into more than a food distribution site by integrating case management, community resource navigation, and connections to additional CAGI programs. The goal is to make every pantry visit an opportunity to connect neighbors with services that promote long-term stability.





Achievement, Service, Wellness, and Celebration



July was a month of achievement, service, wellness, and celebration as the We CANN Blueprint to Business Cohort 2 came to a successful close.

Throughout the month, Champions participated in meaningful experiences designed to strengthen leadership, teamwork, community engagement, personal wellness, and business development. Champions volunteered at Gleaners Food Bank, where they gave back to the community while learning the importance of service and collaboration.

During the final celebration week, Champions attended an Indianapolis Indians game at Victory Field on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. On Thursday, July 23, they participated in the We CANN Summer Wellness Bash at Eagle Creek Park, which included food, outdoor recreation, kayaking, games, and opportunities to reflect on their accomplishments.

The cohort concluded on Friday, July 24, 2026, with the REDi Entrepreneurship Pitch Event at Salesforce Tower. Fourteen Champions presented their business ideas before facilitators, community partners, and supporters. Their proposed businesses represented a variety of industries, including balloon and gift creations, catering, towing and roadside assistance, e-commerce, apparel, and other service-based ventures.

We CANN is now recruiting participants for Blueprint to Business Cohort 3.

Blueprint to Business is an intensive personal, professional, and entrepreneurial development program for young adults ages 18–24. Participants receive entrepreneurship education through the Indy Chamber's REDi program, financial literacy instruction, job-readiness support, individualized coaching, fitness and wellness activities, Moral Reconation Therapy, community service opportunities, and assistance addressing barriers that may interfere with employment or business success.

The program helps participants develop business ideas, improve life and employment skills, build confidence, establish personal and professional goals, and create a plan for their next steps. The Cohort 3 start date will be announced soon.

Know a young adult who may be interested? Scan the QR code to complete the Blueprint to Business pre-assessment and begin the enrollment process.

QR Code link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/cgjQbHBYUa?origin=IprLink>





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

Homebuyers Education Cohort: Discover exactly what it takes to buy a home and evaluate your financial readiness on:
Saturday, August 22 at 11:30 AM.

Visit: <https://cagi-in.org/homebuyer-education/>
or scan the QR code on the flyer below:

FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION
7-SESSION WORKSHOP COHORT
REGISTER NOW

ONLINE

ONLINE @ CAGI-IN.ORG | IN-PERSON @ MAIN OFFICE

COHORT #10	COHORT #11	COHORT #12
TUESDAY MAY 5 - JUNE 16, 2026	SATURDAY JUNE 13 - AUGUST 8, 2026	SATURDAY AUGUST 22 - OCTOBER 17, 2026
4:00PM - 5:30PM ONLINE	12:30 - 2PM IN PERSON	12:30PM - 2PM IN PERSON

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

Access to CAGI Programs | Knowledgeable Educators | Free Course & Materials

GOOD CREDIT | NO CREDIT | BAD CREDIT

STOP RENTING | START LEGACY BUILDING

COMMUNITY ACTION

Flip Page For Online Instructions | nice@cagi-in.org | 317.279.5661

HBE Online Registration Instructions

- Go to www.cagi-in.org
- Select the **Program** tab or scroll down on mobile device.
- Select **Financial Health** and then scroll down the page to the first paragraph on **Homebuyer Education**.
- Read the information and then click on **LEARN MORE**.
- All initial forms needed for **Registration** and **Intake** are there.
- You will need to complete 4 forms only for Registration.
- **Registration, Disclosure, Intake, & HBE 101 Assessment #1**
- You will be notified when your registration and intake are complete.

Contact Nicole Ice with any issues.

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!



COMMUNITY
ACTION HOUSING CHOICE
VOUCHER PROGRAM



Awards & Community

Women of Impact Grant Award: The Housing Choice Voucher Program is proud to announce that it was selected as a Women of Impact Quarter 2 Grant Award recipient on June 10, 2026. Through this award, the HCV Program received \$13,391 to support eligible Boone County residents. This funding will help individuals and families achieve housing stability and move toward greater self-sufficiency.

Grant funds may be used for:

- Security deposits
- Utility deposits and utility assistance
- Rental application fees
- A portion of rent, when appropriate

Upcoming Community Events

The HCV Team will host a booth at the following community events:

- **Moms Night Out: Boone County Community Baby Shower**

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

- **Landlord Engagement Event**

The HCV Program is preparing for its upcoming Landlord Engagement event.

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

This event will provide an opportunity to connect with current and prospective landlords, share information about the HCV Program, answer questions, and strengthen partnerships that expand housing opportunities for participating families.

- **Moms Night Out: Hendricks County Community Baby Shower**

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Washington Township Pavilion Center, Aspen Room

435 Whipple Lane, Avon, Indiana 46123



Team members will provide information about the HCV Program, housing resources, and available community services.

Participant Success Story

An HCV participant recently faced possible homelessness after the landlord decided not to renew the family's lease. With limited time to locate another unit, the participant worked closely with the HCV Team throughout the housing search and approval process.

The team helped the participant identify housing options, coordinate required documents, and complete the steps needed for the new unit. The participant was able to secure a beautiful newly built townhome in Avon and transition into stable housing. This success reflects the importance of collaboration, timely communication, and continued support for families facing unexpected housing challenges.

Staff Recognition

The HCV Team continues to strengthen its presence and partnerships throughout Boone County.

Special recognition goes to Jason and Diana for attending local Coffee Hour and Housing Taskforce meetings. Their participation provided valuable insight into community needs, housing concerns, and available resources. Their continued engagement helps the HCV Program build stronger relationships and better serve local residents.



"HELPING FAMILIES TODAY WHILE BUILDING A MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT TOMORROW."

The Weatherization Team continues to work hard to serve families throughout our community by helping reduce energy costs and improve home energy efficiency. Our current goal is to complete 15 homes per month from start to finish, and our staff is dedicated to meeting that target while providing quality service to every client.

Recently, our team attended the Indiana Black Expo (IBE) to connect with community members and share information about our programs. We were excited to meet many potential clients and hope those conversations will lead to more households taking advantage of the services we offer.

We are also continuing to provide assistance through our Solar Energy Program, helping eligible households explore energy-saving opportunities and sustainable solutions for their homes.

COMMUNITY ACTION WEATHERIZATION

INSULATING YOUR HOME TO LOCK IN EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

Adding insulation to the areas shown here may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency. Insulate either the attic floor or under the roof. Check with a licensed contractor about crawl space or basement insulation.

1 Attic
2 Walls
3 Floors
4 Basement
5 Crawl space

CAGI's Weatherization Assistance Program implements measures to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons to reduce the energy burden and improve the health and safety of their home. CAGI seeks to service eligible persons, especially low-income persons who are elderly, disabled, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high energy burden.

The services provided are as follows:

- Insulating
- Sealing
- Testing
- Replacing

For more information visit: <https://cagi-in.org/weatherization/> or contact
Beverly Smith
Weatherization Client Outreach and Intake
317.342.2007
bsmith@CAGI-IN.ORG

SCAN THE QR CODE



🌟 Celebrating Our Amazing Senior Citizens! 🌟

Our Senior Citizens are staying active, engaged, and making a difference! Each week, they come together for fun and fellowship through Lunch and Learns, exercise classes, games, and special guest speakers who provide valuable information and inspiration.

But our seniors are doing even more! Some proudly serve as Foster Grandparent Volunteers, sharing their time, wisdom, and caring hearts with children in schools, daycares, and after-school programs. Through mentoring, tutoring, and encouragement, they help children learn, grow, and succeed. From staying active and learning new things to giving back and supporting the next generation, our Senior Citizens continue to show us that age is just a number—and there is always a way to make a difference!

We are proud to celebrate our seniors and all the wonderful ways they strengthen our community! ❤️

New Donation!

The Foster Grandparent Program would like to send a special Thank You to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 103 for your \$2,500.00 donation. These funds were a donation to help with a trip to Chicago.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS, BUILDING FUTURES.





On Thursday, July 30th, the CAGI Wellness Hub on the 9th floor of 3266 N. Meridian Street came alive with conversation, connection, and community. Our latest CAGI Connect networking event brought together caregivers, community members, and local partners for an engaging evening centered on this month's theme: Caregiver Support — Caring with Confidence.

The room was filled with people who showed up not just to learn, but to share — exchanging experiences, asking real questions, and leaving with practical tools they could put to use immediately. Refreshments were served as attendees dove into collaborative discussions covering three vital topics:

- Meal Planning & Nutrition — Practical strategies for feeding a loved one well on any budget
- Medication Management — Best practices and organizational tools to reduce errors and stay on track
- Medicare Navigation — Guidance on understanding and maximizing available benefits

The evening was made possible through the generous partnership of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated — Alpha Nu Omega Chapter and Sharpened Minds, whose support helped make the programming both rich and accessible.



THURSDAY JUL 30
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Refreshments will be served

Join us for
CAGI CONNECT
Connecting People. Strengthening Communities.

YOU'RE INVITED TO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

CAGI Wellness Hub
3266 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN, 46208
9th Floor

Join us for an engaging evening of practical information, shared experiences, and community resources designed to support caregivers. Join the discussion about nutrition, medication management, Medicare resources, and local services while connecting with others on the caregiving journey.

This month's theme is:
Caregiver Support
Caring with Confidence

WHAT TO EXPECT
Join us for a collaborative discussion on the following topics:

- **Meal Planning & Nutrition** – Practical tips for feeding your loved one well on any budget
- **Medication Management** – Tools and best practices to stay organized and avoid errors
- **Medicare Navigation** – Resources to help you understand and maximize your benefits

Presented by:
COMMUNITY ACTION HEALTH & WELLNESS

COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Harmony & Healing
OPEN MIC
Hip Hop - R&B - Poetry - Spoken Word

Hosted By: **Richec & DJ Jawann**

YOUTH SESSION: CLEAN MUSIC ONLY
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026
6PM-7PM
CAGI LOWER LEVEL
3266 N. MERIDIAN ST., INDY, IN, 46208

ADULT SESSION: EXPRESS YOURSELF!
PARENTAL ADVISORY: EXPLICIT LANGUAGE
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026
7PM-9PM
CAGI LOWER LEVEL
3266 N. MERIDIAN ST., INDY, IN, 46208

LAST MONTH'S WINNER!
J. ICE @_jsociety

SCANNED THE QR CODE --> OR VISIT: [HTTPS://CAGI-IN.ORG/HARMONY-HEALING](https://cagi-in.org/harmony-healing)

CONTACT:
RICHARD CRIM, EXECUTIVE OFFICE MANAGER
RCRIM@CAGI-IN.ORG
OFFICE NUMBER: 1.423.226.7677

FOR MORE INFO & TICKETING
WWW.CAGI-IN.ORG

What started as an idea about using art as a pathway to healing has quickly become one of the most anticipated events on CAGI's community calendar. The Harmony & Healing Open Mic series, hosted by Richec and DJ Jawann, has found its groove and we need for Greater Indianapolis to keep growing with us.

The first edition introduced the stage to a room of positive energy, raw talent, and genuine community connection. When the night was over, hip hop artist J. Ice (@_jsociety) had captured the crowd and taken home the winner's title, setting the bar high for what was to come.

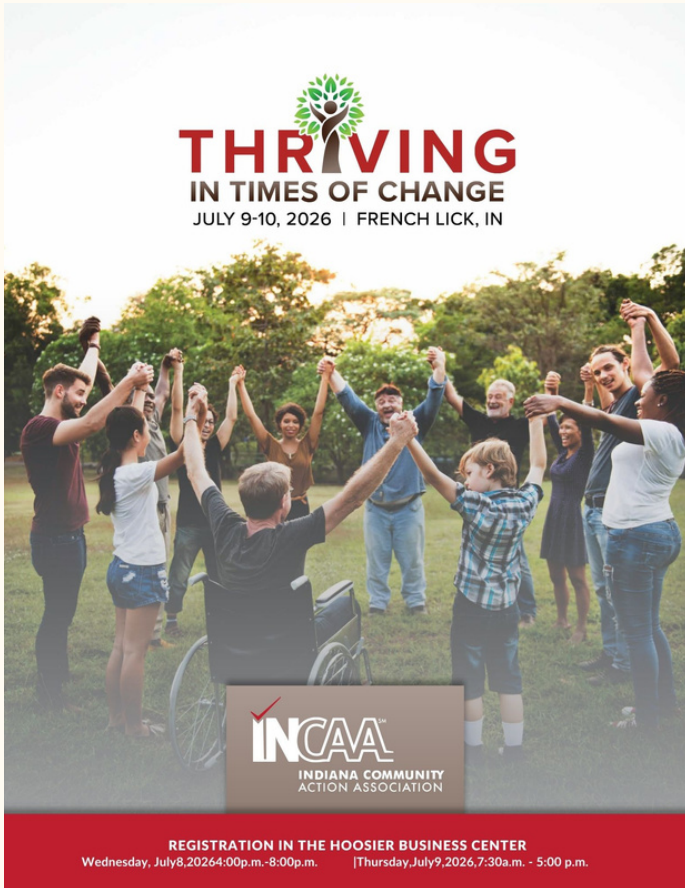
The second event proved the series was no fluke. Poet Nick C. stepped to the mic and moved the room in a completely different way, reminding everyone that Harmony & Healing is exactly what its name promises. Not just one genre, not just one voice, but a full spectrum of artistic expression in service of community and connection.

The series continues to grow, and the question on everyone's mind heading into the next event is simple: who's next?



INCAA Annual Conference

French Lick, IN



CAGI Takes the Stage at INCAA's 2026 State Conference

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI) made a strong showing at this year's Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA) State Conference, Thriving in Times of Change, held July 9–10 in French Lick, Indiana. The two-day event brought together Community Action professionals from across the state for workshops, keynote sessions, and peer collaboration centered on leading organizations through an evolving landscape.

Among the highlights of CAGI's participation was a pair of workshop sessions presented by a member of our CAGI home team. The Thursday afternoon session, "Marketing and Messaging Tools We Have Developed and How We Use Them," offered a strategic deep-dive into the digital tools driving CAGI's day-to-day operations, including Canva, Monday.com, and Microsoft 365.

CAGI's own systems served as real-world proof points throughout the presentation, demonstrating how a lean nonprofit team can communicate more powerfully, manage work more efficiently, and serve the community more effectively without adding headcount. The Friday morning session extended the conversation into an open forum, giving Community Action professionals from agencies across Indiana a space to discuss the tools and technologies shaping their own work.

The keynote luncheon, delivered by Berneitha McNair, was another memorable moment from the conference. Her address, "This Is Community Action: We Are the Difference," was a powerful reminder of the collective strength that runs through every organization in this network — and the very real impact made through daily acts of service, leadership, and partnership.

Beyond the sessions, the conference offered valuable time for CAGI staff to connect with one another and with peers from across the state — a reminder that the relationships built within this network are just as important as the work done inside our offices.

We are proud to have represented CAGI on this platform and look forward to continuing to share what we're building with the broader Community Action community.



Indiana Black Expo

Downtown Indianapolis, IN



COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

We'll be at the



Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

We're here for you!

Stop by the CAGI booth and connect with resources, programs, and people dedicated to uplifting our community. Whether you're looking for support or want to get involved – we want to meet you.

Find us on the floor
Hall - I
Booth 528



<https://cagi-in.org> @CAGIIndiana

Taking Our Mission to the Floor

This summer, CAGI took our mission beyond our walls and into one of Indianapolis's most celebrated community gatherings, the Indiana Black Expo. Over the course of three days, our team set up shop in Hall I, Booth 528, connecting face-to-face with residents, families, and community members from across Greater Indianapolis.

The booth was stocked with program materials, resources, and information covering the full breadth of what CAGI offers, from workforce development and wealth-building programs to community events and wellness initiatives. Staff members welcomed every visitor with warmth and enthusiasm, answering questions, sharing opportunities, and simply letting people know that CAGI is here for them.

IBE draws thousands of attendees each year, making it one of the most powerful stages in the city for community outreach. Our presence there was a deliberate statement: wherever our community gathers, CAGI will be there too.

To every staff member who gave their time and energy to represent our organization on that floor, thank you. You are the face of this mission, and you showed up beautifully.





Historical Philanthropists



Mary McLeod Bethune

In 1904, Mary McLeod Bethune arrived in Daytona Beach, Florida with a dream, a handful of students, and \$1.50 to her name. With little more than faith and an unshakable belief in the transformative power of education, she founded what would become Bethune-Cookman University, an institution that has produced generations of educated, empowered Black Americans.

But Bethune's mission extended far beyond a campus. She believed that uplifting one person uplifted an entire community. She organized women's civic clubs, advised multiple U.S. presidents on issues of equality and opportunity, and co-founded the National Council of Negro Women, all driven by one core conviction: that every person, regardless of their circumstances, deserved the tools to build a better life.

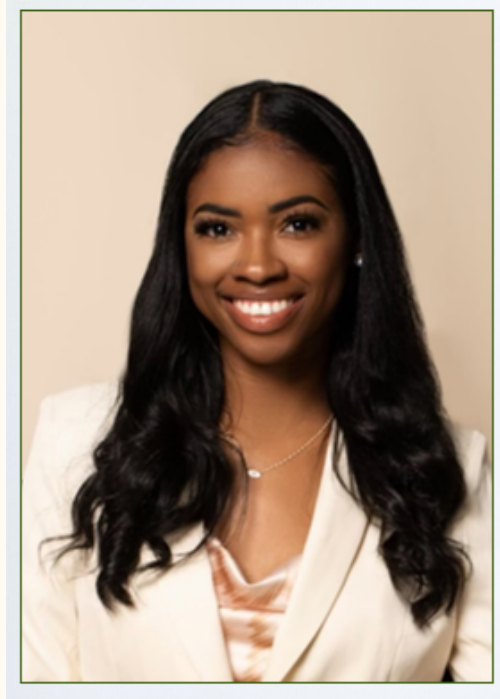
She didn't wait for perfect conditions. She cleared the ground herself and built on it.

That spirit lives in the work of Community Action of Greater Indianapolis. Like Bethune, CAGI operates from the belief that poverty is not permanent and with the right resources, support, and opportunity, individuals and families can transform their lives. Every workforce development program, every community partnership, every new initiative launched this month is an extension of the same mission Bethune carried more than a century ago.

Her greatest legacy was never a building. It was the people she helped rise. That remains our measure of success too.



Community Action Special Thanks!



Cinya Brand, MPH, CHES

FLAVORFUL BEGINNINGS LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

CAGI would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Cinya Brand, MPH, CHES for bringing her expertise, passion, and energy to our staff through the Flavorful Beginnings Lunch & Learn Series.

Cinya is a dedicated public health professional whose career has been rooted in one powerful mission: improving food security and access for all communities. Since entering the field of public health in 2014, she has become a respected leader whose research and work focus on building sustainable, equitable food systems that promote health and well-being for everyone. Her sessions here at CAGI were a natural extension of that calling.

Over two engaging sessions hosted right here at CAGI HQ, Cinya guided our staff through topics that were as practical as they were impactful:

- Fighting Chronic Disease with Food — A rich discussion on how the foods we choose directly affect our overall health and well-being, brought to life with a live food demonstration.
- Meal Planning & Grocery Store Tips — Actionable strategies for planning and shopping for meals effectively, no matter your budget or schedule.

Inspired by her book *Flavorful Beginnings: A Working Guide to Nutritional Wellness for Beginners*, each session embodied her guiding principle: Empower Your Plate. Elevate Your Health.

We are grateful for her time, her knowledge, and her commitment to meeting our team where we are. The conversations she sparked and the tools she left behind will continue to benefit our staff and, by extension, the communities we serve.

Thank you, Cinya. We hope this is only the beginning.



3266 N. Meridian Professional Building Partner Spotlight



A Journey With Faith, LLC

CAGI is proud to welcome A Journey with Faith LLC as the newest tenant in the CAGI Health Hub. Led by CEO and Owner Tamara Harris, this faith-based home healthcare organization is deeply rooted in the Indianapolis community with a mission to become the community's preferred home care provider — and it's easy to see why.

A Journey with Faith offers a comprehensive range of home care services designed to help individuals maintain their independence and quality of life, including:

- Personal Care Assistance — Non-medical support for daily tasks, helping clients live as independently as possible
- Medicine Management — Nurse-assisted medication organization and reminders to ensure clients take the right medicine at the right time
- Transportation Services — Reliable transport to medical appointments and other destinations
- Meal Preparation — Weekly and monthly menu planning, grocery shopping, ingredient preparation, and kitchen support

Accepting most insurance plans, private payments, and alternative funding, A Journey with Faith is committed to making quality care accessible to all.

Their presence in the CAGI Health Hub is a natural fit — bringing compassionate, community-centered healthcare directly to the people who need it most. We are excited to grow alongside them and proud to call them a neighbor.



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?](#)



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](#)