

• CANI • CHRONICLE



Fighting Poverty, Building Hope.

Building hope is what matters

By Joseph H. Conrad
CANI Executive Director

The managers at CANI have started a book club, reading texts and discussing them to hone our management skills. The current book is “*Developing the Leader Within You*” by Thomas C. Maxwell

(Nelson, Inc.). It contains a chapter or two discussing the importance of ATTITUDE to leadership. Few are willing to follow for very long those managers with negative attitudes. The author quite rightfully describes a positive attitude as a skill set that can be learned, controlled and developed by managers.

None of that is earthshaking news of course. But it did get me to reflect a bit on the attitude of the folks that come in to CANI regularly for services. I am frequently impressed by the strong positive attitude that I see displayed by those that suffer from poverty. Life
See Building Hope, Page 3



Jah'quaden Jones, who attends CANI's Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton, wraps himself in a new quilt given to him March 18. Students in Denise Geller's Fashion and Textiles Foundations 2 class at Homestead High School have made quilts for CANI Head Start for several years. "This (presenting the quilts) is the best 20 minutes of the project, when the students get to see the kids with the quilts and see that someone appreciates their work," Ms. Geller said. (Photo by Pamela Pellegrene, CANI Information Coordinator.)



A highlight of 2007 was CANI winning a Spotlight Award from the Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA) in partnership with the Indiana University School of Social Work. The award recognized CANI for its Shelter Plus Care program, which helps pay housing costs for homeless families who have mental illness, AIDS/HIV, or substance abuse issues. Pictured above are Pam Brookshire, Director of Program Operations; Joseph H. Conrad, CANI Executive Director; Matt Beer (with award), who works with clients with housing vouchers and with property owners; and John Robb, Family Development Supervisor. Family Development case managers interview prospective clients to determine eligibility. (Photo by Pamela Pellegrene, CANI Information Coordinator)

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Score (with CANI's help): Homeowner 1, Squirrels 0

By Pamela Pellegrine
CANI Information Coordinator

Squirrels are cute, cuddly creatures, right?

No, not to a homeowner whose roof was severely damaged by them. In the case of a near-northwest-side homeowner in Fort Wayne, squirrels had attacked her house, and they were winning!

The squirrels chewed through her roof in many places. That caused leaks, sending water inside the home every time it rained. The roof leaks were so bad that interior walls were damaged and the plaster was



deteriorating in some places.

By the time the homeowner, whom we'll call Mary, applied for CANI's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) Program last spring, she couldn't even qualify for homeowner's insurance because conditions

were so bad. And she couldn't afford to make the repairs.

Through CANI's program, however, Mary is now able to live in a safer, drier, more energy-efficient home.

A licensed contractor reroofed the entire home and repaired and replaced gutters. Inside the home, the contractor patched ceilings, insulated and repaneled walls, and removed moldy carpet.

Mary is quite pleased with what CANI did for her. She is now able to get on with her life and not worry about those chomping squirrels ruining her home.

One of the requirements of the OOR program is that homeowners must have insurance on their property. CANI obtained a binder for Mary from a local insurer. The insurer agreed to insure the home after repairs were completed. After a final inspection by CANI in September, Mary can now rest easier, knowing her home is insured.

Through the OOR program, CANI can repair homes for homeowners with low-to-moderate incomes. The program concentrates on fixing problems that threaten the building's safety. For information, contact CANI at (260) 423-3546 or (800) 589-2264.

There's still time to file for economic stimulus payment

If you know people who do not normally file federal income tax returns and fear they have missed out on the economic stimulus benefit, here's good news to share with them: They must file tax returns to receive the benefits, but they have more time to do so.

The normal deadline for filing federal income taxes is April 15. However, those who are filing only in order to get a stimulus payment can file by Oct. 15. The IRS can issue a stimulus payment before the end of the year.

A person is eligible if he or she has a valid Social Security Number (SSN) and shows qualifying income of at least \$3,000 on the federal tax return. Payments are up to \$600 per adult and \$300 per child.

More than 130 million households will receive the economic stimulus payments. The

payments are not taxable, and won't reduce the 2007 or 2008 refunds or increase the amount owed on next year's return.

People must have valid Social Security Numbers (SSN) to receive the benefits... Taxpayers with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) instead of an SSN cannot receive a stimulus payment. Both people listed on a "married filing jointly" return must have valid SSNs to qualify. If only one has a valid SSN, neither can receive the payment. Children also must have valid Social Security numbers.

Those receiving Social Security and certain veterans' benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits may count those benefits towards the qualifying income requirement of \$3,000. However, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.

Those who normally don't have to file a tax return and can use the short form for the stimulus payment can check out tax

package 1040A-3 on www.irs.gov. That package gives information on, and an example of how to fill out, Form 1040A.

CANI Management Team

Joseph H. Conrad
Executive Director

Mary Lee Freeze
Head Start Director

Pamela Brookshire
Director of
Program Operations

Steve Hoffman
Director of
Administration

CANI Chronicles

April 2008

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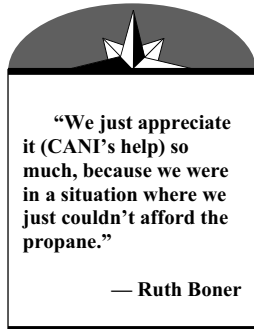
Older couple grateful for CANI's help

By Pamela Pellegrine
CANI Information
Coordinator

This is a story about a couple who are almost starting over at a time when most people are well on their way to retirement.

Ruth and Don Boner raised cows in Whitley County for most of their married life. After their barn burned down in 1996, they were able to get loans to replace the barn but not to replace the livestock, so they couldn't continue the farm. They almost lost the farm in a foreclosure until their three grown children bailed out the property. They are currently renting another home and living on less than \$1,000 monthly in combined Social Security until they and their children figure out what to do next.

Mrs. Boner is 65, five years younger than her husband. She called CANI to thank the agency for the dedication of Family Support Worker Casandra Kelly-Haney.



"We're destitute. We lost our occupation and our home. We needed fuel assistance," Mrs. Boner said. But because of issues stemming from her knee replacement surgery, the family was over income for CANI's Energy Assistance Program until some insurance bills were paid. Even though the Boners were paying the insurance bills, the insurance counted as income.

"She was fair and upfront and just doing her job," Mrs. Boner said of Ms. Kelly-Haney, by telling the Boners they were at first unable to

qualify. "She's a super lady."

But Ms. Kelly-Haney encouraged the Boners to call back and check to see if eligibility levels had increased or enough of the bills had been paid to allow the Boners to qualify. Finally, after several months of checking, the couple qualified.

"We just appreciate it so much, because we were in a situation where we just couldn't afford the propane" to heat the house, she said. "We appreciate her."

Ms. Kelly-Haney, however, a 25-year CANI veteran, was typically modest about her concern for the Boners. "I didn't do anything I wouldn't have done for anyone else," she said. "I always try to do the best job of getting my clients the most help they're allowed."

CANI's help isn't going to stop at fuel assistance, though.

Even at age 65, "I'll be getting a job," Mrs. Boner said. She recently attended a free workshop on Employment

Skills taught by Dianne Jenkins, CANI's Family Education Specialist.

"She did excellently, too," Mrs. Boner said of Ms. Jenkins, who also is reviewing Mrs. Boner's resume to offer tips on getting a good job.

Mrs. Boner formerly did factory work and often showed the ropes to new employees, so she thinks she would be good working with younger people.

In addition, the Boners have been referred to Family Development, a free case management program that works with a family to help it build on its strengths to solve problems. A Family Development case manager will help the Boners set goals and connect them to community resources they haven't uncovered themselves.

Meanwhile, even though the Boners will have a difficult road ahead, Mrs. Boner still finds time to be grateful. "It's great people like CANI that helped us."

Building hope

From Page 1

hands them lemons. They come in with the most depressing stories of devastating things they are facing in their lives – health problems, job loss, disloyalty from family and friends. All manner of pestilence seems to gang up on these people to make them miserable. Naturally we see lots of despair. However, I also see some goodly numbers who are able to smile through all of that turmoil. When I see people present a positive attitude towards such desperate situations, I am truly inspired.

I see those smiles and I know that those are the ones that are going to make it through this rough patch in their lives just fine. And I look at the others and I know that if we could just teach them . . .

Of course we do a lot of this teaching work at CANI. Healthy Families, Head Start, and Family Development are a few of the programs which are training efforts. And we work closely with other programs throughout the community which also strive to teach basic living skills. But teaching takes time. And learning takes even longer. And after the learning

takes place, it takes even longer for the lessons learned to have their positive results.

So until then, what do we do? Until we can teach everyone and it can have its redemptive effect, we also have to attend to the hurt. We have to make sure there is food on the table and a roof overhead and heat in the house and that all of those other "must-be-done" things are addressed. It is important to relieve the pain and suffering as well as to attack the root cause of poverty.

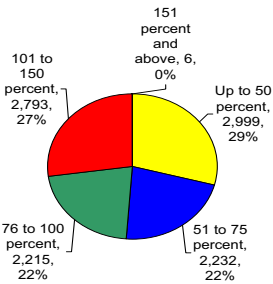
At least it is important if you have the right attitude towards poverty. I think I have a

positive attitude towards it. I hope you do, too. If not, Maxwell recommends practicing the proper behavior until the proper attitude develops. Go on. Do the right thing. It will change your mind.

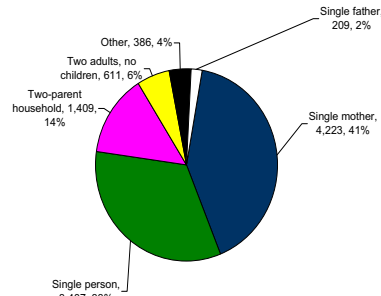
Please come help us fight poverty. Help us build hope. You can start with reaching out to a struggling friend or neighbor. You can start by volunteering at CANI or any other community charity. You can start by sending a donation to us or to any other good cause. But please start. We

CANI Chronicles

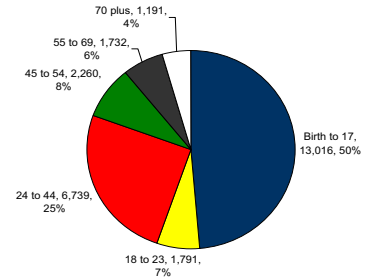
Income as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL) among families CANI helped in 2007.
(100 percent of the FPL for a family of four was \$20,650.)



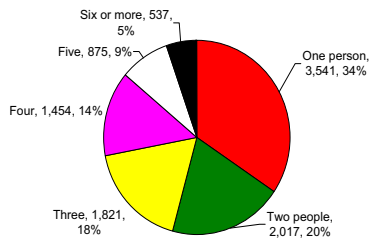
Number of families helped by CANI in 2007 by family type



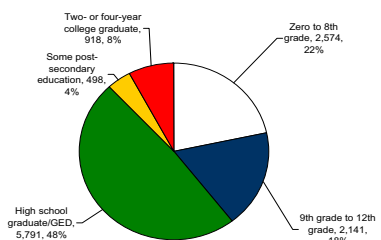
Number of people helped by CANI in 2007 by age



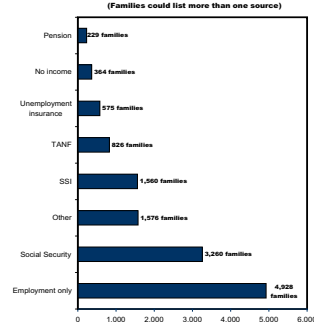
Number of families helped by CANI in 2007 by family size



Number of adults ages 24 and older helped by CANI in 2007 by education level



Sources of income among families CANI helped in 2007
(Families could list more than one source)



CANI helped more than 26,000 people in 2007

CANI helped 26,729 people in northeast Indiana in 2007. Every year, CANI serves more than half of the more than 42,000 people living in poverty in the area.

Last year, CANI made the following possible:

- 10,245 families received help with their utility bills, either reconnecting services or preventing disconnect.
- 4,470 children were provided quality child care in order for

families to get or keep jobs or go to school.

- 3,639 people with disabilities and 1,191 senior citizens maintained independent living situations.
- 972 children developed school-readiness skills in preparation for kindergarten.
- 933 children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.
- 526 families received

emergency food, housing, and utility assistance.

- 407 families improved parenting and family-functioning skills, thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.
- 287 people attended workshops on money management, interviewing and resume skills, or improving relationships.
- 277 families became more self-sufficient

through intensive, home-based case-management services.

- 189 families received monthly housing assistance in order to maintain safe and decent housing.
- 186 families lived in safer and more energy-efficient homes.
- 12 families had extensive home improvements which brought their homes up to code.

Donors help CANI fight poverty, build hope

We'd like to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that supported CANI in 2007.

Your gifts have contributed to our success – thank you for all you do!

We apologize for any errors or omissions; please let us know about any corrections or additions needed.



Children in CANI's Healthy Families program show off stuffed animals they chose at a play date last year. The toys were donated by the Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears of the World. Healthy Families is a home visitation program that provides case management services to families with newborn children. Parents learn parenting, discipline, health, and safety skills to care for their new baby. Families may stay in the program for up to five years. (Photo courtesy of Disorderly Bear Den.)

Heroes – \$10,000-plus

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Visionaries – \$1,000 to \$9,999

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See Donors, Page 6

CANI values its many in-kind donors

Visionaries – \$1,000 to \$9,999

CME Automotive LLC
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Gander Mountain
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Salvation Army
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Ambassadors – \$500 to \$999

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CANI’s Mission Statement

CANI helps communities, families, and individuals remove the causes and conditions of poverty. To find out more about how CANI does this, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.

CANI expenses for fiscal year 2007

Program Name	Grantor Agency	Amount
Federal programs		
Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration	\$492,010
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA)	471,657
Emergency Food and Assistance Programs (FEMA)	Emergency Food and Shelter National Board	93,836
Energy Assistance Program	IHCDA	4,131,467
Head Start	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	4,926,727
Healthy Families	Community Alliance for Healthy Families	933,736
HOME OOR Investment Partnership Program	IHCDA	149,523
Housing Choice Voucher Program	IHCDA	675,185
IHCDA Home Repair	IHCDA	110,598
Individual Development Account Administration	Indiana Department of Commerce	3,729
Shelter Plus Care	IHCDA	98,712
USDA Reimbursement	Indiana Department of Education	268,892
Weatherization Assistance Program	IHCDA	788,387
Family Development	Funded by CSBG*	133,274
Community Action Program	Funded by CSBG*	15,920
Total Federal Programs:		\$13,144,459
These funds are pass-through funds originally from the Federal Government		
<i>*Not included in totals.</i>		
Other State and Local Programs		
Head Start and Park Center Family Education Center Summer Program for CANI Kids	John S. and James L. Knight Foundation	14,585
Head Start CCDF	Parent co-pay and voucher revenue	153,389
Head Start In-Kind	Local match	1,400,606
NIPSCO Weatherization	NIPSCO	54,000
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation	Head Start Assistance	7,956
Supplemental Assistance for Families to Assist the Homeless	Vincent House, Inc.	3,015
REACH	Parkview Whitley Hospital	7,000
Family Development, Family Support, Weatherization	United Way of Allen County, Inc.	5,413
Central Site Case Coordination	United Way	42,251
No Wrong Door/Case Coordination	United Way	24,868
Wells Fargo Home Improvement	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	7,500
Winter Warmth	NIPSCO	9,330
Total Other State and Local Programs:		\$1,729,913
Total Program Activity:		\$14,874,422

Parents of Head Start children lead CANI's Policy Council

The CANI Head Start Policy Council is made up of at least 51 percent parents of Head Start children. Parent representatives are chosen by parent

committees at Head Start centers. Other members include community representatives. The committee meets monthly. The Policy Council helps set procedures and

regulations for Head Start.
Chair
 DaLonna Woods
Vice Chair
 Tressa Sparks
Secretary
 Wesley White

Julie Causey
 Lesley Girardot
 Tiffany Gordon
 Katie Graney
 Mary House
 Adria Johnson
 Glenda Kendle
 Toni Lovely
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Anina Rolfson
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 Pamela Wilson
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Alternates
 Sheila Blackmon

Jenny Esquivel
 Maxine Evans
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 Elizabeth Hawke
 Jodi Hughes-Rodriguez
 Samantha Miller
 Loretta Sanchez

CANI Chronicles

Dine at Hall's and give back, too!

Spring is here! Finally! Time to celebrate by taking the family out to Hall's. Just remember to show your free Community Partnership Card and benefit CANI when you pay your bill. CANI earns a 5 percent rebate from restaurant dining or catering or specialty services. The reward goes up to 10 percent when you show your card at the Guesthouse Hotel for lodging needs. CANI earns a monthly rebate check reflecting your activity. If you need a new card, call Lesa Cassel, 423-3546, ext. 223, today.



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*Interior design
for the way
you live & work*

260-624-2900
jennifer@jemseydesigns.com

Grace Cassel, a CANI volunteer, straightens her mask as she is dressed as a crash dummy to stress safety at the annual Halloween event cosponsored by CANI and the Illinois Road Meijer. Children participated in a scavenger hunt and trick-or-treated as well. (Photo by Jennifer Renner, CANI Development Supervisor)



CANI Golf 2008

Cherry Hill Golf Club -- Fort Wayne, IN -- Wednesday, May 14

Join us for a day of golf, prizes, drinks, and dinner, and help fight poverty, all at the same time!

Florida Scramble
Registration Begins at Noon
1 p.m. Shotgun Start

An awards banquet will be held immediately after the outing.

1st Prize: \$500; 2nd Prize: \$300;
3rd Prize: \$200.
Other Prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt and more!



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Single Player and Team Prices

\$80 for a single golfer (\$95 after April 21)
\$320 for a foursome (\$380 after April 21)

Please send registration and payment to:

CANI GOLF 2008
P.O. Box 10570
Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570

Make all checks payable to CANI.

For more information, call Steve Hoffman or Jennifer Renner at **(260) 423-3546** or visit **www.canigolf.org**

Level of Sponsorship (if applicable) _____

Name _____

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Address _____

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I will be golfing with a foursome which includes:

(myself) _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

_____ /we will be attending the dinner immediately following the outing.