



CANIChronicles

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

CANI employee participates in United Way reading program

The role of a Family Advocate is to reach out to families in the Head Start program, so it's no wonder Neal Davis has taken on a similar role outside of his day job.

Neal Davis is a Family Advocate for CANI Head Start and a part of the United Way's Learn United "Real Men Read" campaign. This community-based reading program attempts to close the third-grade reading achievement gap. Learn United is led by United Way of Allen County and the Allen County Education Partnership; Fort Wayne Community Schools, East Allen County Schools and the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce are all Learn United partners.

As a "MENtor" volunteer, Davis visits a second-grade class at Croninger Elementary to read a few stories every month and most importantly offer a positive male presence in the classroom.

Although fairly new to CANI, Davis is no stranger to the social services field.

"I always felt the need to work to serve," he said. "I have a passion to help children."

Davis said although his time in the classroom is limited, he has already seen how his role fits in the bigger picture of changing lives. A positive male influence is critical to child development and Davis is working to fulfill this role with his sincere message:

"It's important to take education seriously," he said. "Reading is a fundamental foundation to a great career."

And out of the mouth of babes come some funny things.

"You'll never know what you'll get with the kids," he said. "It's amazing to see their different personalities."

The United Way is still seeking volunteers for the reading program. After a background check and a one-hour training session, volunteers will visit their classroom once a month in March, April and May to read a book with the children.

Anyone wanting to volunteer should visit www.LearnUnited.org, or call Jamie Garwood at United Way of Allen County at (260) 422-4776. Community members can also participate by sponsoring books for the classes. \$150 sponsors a class and \$2 sponsors a book. Three-thousand students will receive a total of 9,000 books through Real Men Read.

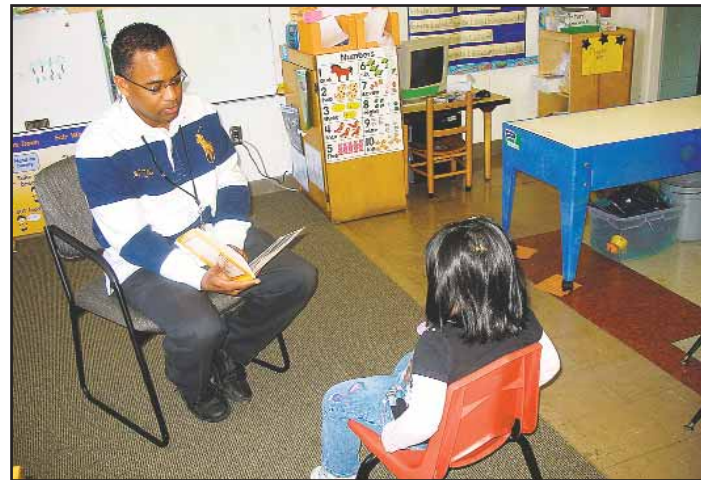


Photo By Lauren Caggiano, CANI Development Coordinator

Neal Davis reads to an afternoon CANI Head Start student at the Temple site.

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CANI Weatherization Inspector Tim Dykehouse prepares his thermal camera to take images inside a house that will be weatherized. The thermal camera helps locate areas in a home where heat loss may be occurring.



Photo By Jennifer Renner, CANI Development Supervisor

See *CANI Weatherization* article on page 3 for more information

CANI will be closed Friday, April 10 for Good Friday.



Regular CANI hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday.

CANI Mission Statement

CANI helps communities, families, and individuals remove the causes and conditions of poverty.

CANI Management Team

Joseph H. Conrad
Executive Director

Mary Lee Freeze
Head Start Director

Pamela Brookshire
Director of Program Operations

Steve Hoffman
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To find out more about CANI, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.



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CANI Weatherization Program offers energy-efficient home improvements and more

It's those standout moments that make a job worthwhile, the CANI Weatherization team will tell you.

Weatherization Inspector Tim Dykehouse recalls one instance when CANI saved a family from headaches. A family enrolled in the Weatherization Program had complained of smelling gas in the basement during the initial inspection of their house. Dykehouse inspected the house and sure enough there was a defective water heater plaguing the house. A new water heater was installed and not surprisingly the residents no longer complained of headaches.

"We really did something for them," Dykehouse says in retrospect.

Examples like this are among the many ways CANI helps to ensure the overall

health and safety of its clients. Other health and safety measures include installing and testing smoke detectors, testing gas appliances and pipes for leaks, and checking for mold and moisture.

Energy efficiency is also the name of the game when inspecting a home. CANI Inspectors check to see if homes are adequately insulated and run tests to find out where air is leaking. The home owner is also given energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs for the most used light fixtures.

The CANI Weatherization Program improves between 200 and 250 low-income homes each year in Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. For more information about the Weatherization Program, contact CANI at (260) 423-3546.



Photo By Jennifer Renner, CANI Development Supervisor

CANI Weatherization Inspector Tim Dykehouse tests the stove to be sure that the gas levels are not too high. This is part of the standard health and safety inspection that is done for each home in the Weatherization Program.

CANI educates public at local health fair

CANI had a presence March 7 at the 14th annual Doctor's Day, an educational health fair at Science Central. CANI was among several organizations at the event.

Family Education Specialist Dianne Jenkins educated the public about the Covering Kids and Families program. She said hundreds of people approached the CANI booth and were eager to find out more about the program, which connects low-income families, pregnant women, and children to health insurance through Medicaid, the State's Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP).

Jenkins said she encountered many people who are typical of the kinds of families who

come to CANI. For example, a single mother lacking health insurance for her son was curious about his eligibility.

CANI's presence at these types of events is critical to public education.

"It's very important so that the community can know all about the services CANI offers," she said.

She noted that while some of CANI's programs are well known, others aren't always on the top of people's minds. An event like Doctor's Day is an opportunity to educate the people about the breadth of services CANI offers.

Jenkins filled in for Paige Wilkins, CANI's Program Coordinator for Covering Kids &

Families of Northeast Indiana, who was not able to attend. She said that CANI is "one big, happy family" and employees do not hesitate to step up to volunteer to help.

"That's what we do for each other...offer a helping hand," she said.

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana, Inc. (CKF-IN) is a statewide organization committed to ensuring that all children and families eligible for state and federal health insurance are enrolled. Covering Kids & Families of Indiana is a partnership of more than five hundred organizations and individuals "Advocating Health Coverage for All." For more information about CKF-IN, visit their web site at www.ckfindiana.org.

To find out more about CANI, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.



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Head Start recruitment begins for 2009-2010 school-year

CANI is beginning recruitment efforts for the 2009-2010 school-year with a kick-off event on April 17 at the CANI Head Start site at the Temple. CANI staff is challenging each other to get as many Head Start applications completed as possible before August 14. This challenge will encourage staff to be actively involved with recruitment. It will also assist in getting the required 10 percent waiting list which ensures that all Head Start classrooms are fully enrolled from the first day of school.

Head Start Director Mary Lee Freeze said the recruitment effort is important for many reasons: "First, it promotes teamwork, because there is always a challenge for site staff to work together towards a goal," she said. "Second, it is a great morale booster because the design is such that all staff can participate and there are usually built in incentives for participation. And last but not least, the recruitment committee always works very hard to incorporate a "learning piece" into the goal."

This educational aspect includes learning about the various roles of the Head Start staff, specifically the Family Advocate. The

Family Advocate works with center staff to achieve program objectives including, but not limited to full enrollment, average daily attendance rate, parent involvement and family partnerships.

The Family Advocate acts as a liaison between the Head Start program and families. Therefore, he or she is tasked with planning and implementing the necessary systems to identify and access services and resources to address the needs of Head Start families. To do this, the Advocate meets with each of these families a minimum of three times throughout the program year. Goals are then set with the families according to their needs. Family Advocates provide resources, contacts and encouragement to families to reach the goals they set. Family Advocates also help families in crisis situations --- referring them to other organizations as needed.

The Family Advocates are also the main recruiters for our program. Families come to them to complete applications and intake information. At the beginning of the year, and throughout the year, they are responsible for the enrollment for a particular site.

CANI Head Start is a free, comprehensive development program. It meets educational, health, nutritional, and social service needs of low-income preschool children, ages 3 to 5, and their families in Allen, Noble, and Whitley counties. Head Start includes learning experiences and health screenings. Eligible families are at or below the federal poverty level, currently \$21,200 for a family of four.

To apply for CANI Head Start, families must turn in proof of income, a copy of the child's birth certificate and social security card, proof of immunizations, a copy of a health insurance card if applicable, and a short application form. Enrollment is based on the child's age, the family's income, the child's need, and available openings.

For more information about Head Start or the recruitment effort, contact CANI at (260) 420-2833.



Do you dine at Halls?

CANI has free Community Partnership cards available for use at any Hall's Restaurant or specialty service. CANI earns a 5 percent rebate from restaurant dining or catering or specialty services. The reward increases to 10 percent when you show your card at the Guesthouse Hotel for lodging needs. It's a win-win situation; as CANI earns a monthly rebate check reflecting your activity. **Call Kim Myers, (260) 399-4106, to get your card today.**

To find out more about CANI, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.



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CANI is seeking nominees for its 4th annual William G. Williams Award to be presented June 9 at the CANI RECAP event

(To Joel Harms and Tim Dykehouse)
“Great job with the insulation...I have noticed a great improvement in heating bills. They are much lower. Thank you for helping me and making my home so cozy. God bless you both!”

- CANI Weatherization client

The purpose of this award is to honor individuals who demonstrate a commitment to help communities, families and individuals remove the conditions of poverty. William G. Williams was the first executive director of the Allen County Economic Opportunity Council, the predecessor of CANI.

An award winner will be chosen based on the significance of his or her contributions in one or more of the following areas:

1. Helping low-income people become more self-sufficient;
2. Improving the conditions in which low-income people live;
3. Helping low-income people own a stake in their community;
4. Creating partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people;
5. Increasing CANI's capacity to achieve results;
6. Helping low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

*For more information, please contact
Development Coordinator Lauren Caggiano,
laurencaggiano@canihelp.org or
(260) 423-3546 ext. 209*

CANI Offices

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
Allen	227 E Washington Blvd Fort Wayne, IN 46802	423-3546 or 800-589-2264
DeKalb	209 N Jackson St. Auburn, IN 46706	927-0162
LaGrange	109 E Central Ave, Ste 4 LaGrange, IN 46761	463-5276
Noble	119 W Mitchell St. Kendallville, IN 46755	349-0713
Steuben	1208 S Wayne St. Angola, IN 46703	665-1160
Whitley	Lehmborg Medical Building 333 N Oak St, Ste K Columbia City, IN 46725	248-2848
<i>The following offices only provide childcare assistance...</i>		
Elkhart	421 S 2nd St, Ste 420 Elkhart, IN 46516	574-293-3460
Kosciusko	501 E Arthur St. Warsaw, IN 46580	574-267-4492



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CANI Thanks Our Donors

We'd like to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that have recently supported CANI. Your financial gifts and in-kind contributions help us fight poverty and build hope - thank you for all you do!

Visionary (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Classic Cafe
Disorderly Bear Den of Good Bears
of the World

Guardian (\$250 - \$499)

Dilgard Frozen Foods, Inc.
Hall's Restaurants

Friend (\$1 - \$99)

Crazy Pinz
Ms. Arlene R. Partin

Ambassador (\$500 - \$999)

Abundant Life Church
Bowen Center

Advocate (\$100 - \$249)

National City Bank



Yes, I would like to give to CANI so I can help fight poverty and build hope!



Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Please mail this completed form to:

CANI
PO Box 10570
Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570

Or you may donate online at
www.canihelp.org.

Please write amount of your donation on the appropriate line.
I want to be a:

_____ Hero (\$10,000 +)	_____ Guardian (\$250 - \$499)
_____ Visionary (\$1,000 - \$9,999)	_____ Advocate (\$100 - \$249)
_____ Ambassador (\$500 - \$999)	_____ Friend (\$1 - \$99)

Your name will be published in CANI's annual report and newsletters.
If you wish to keep your donation anonymous, please check here _____.

And remember, your gift is tax-deductible.



To find out more about CANI, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.



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Individuals and families come to CANI for free tax help

CANI is a site for the successful earned income tax credit (EITC) assistance program that has found hundreds of dollars in refunds for local low-income families and individuals.

As of March 19, about 800 electronic tax turns had been completed and tax returns for this group totaled more than \$1 million, said organizer Jean Joley, executive director of the Volunteer Center @ RSVP. This figure is more than the total amount for last year.

The average federal refund for those who have participated so far is \$1,521.94. Joley said the highest return was more than \$15,000. The taxpayer received the \$7,500 credit for a new home purchase, EITC, and other tax credits.

Fifty-two volunteers have been recruited and trained to help low-income residents file their taxes electronically and file for the EITC. The free tax help is available through April 13. Tax preparation sites include: CANI, 227 W. Washington Blvd.; St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1101 S. Lafayette St., and the Euell A. Wilson Community Center, 1512 Oxford St. Residents can also call the Euell A. Wilson Center at (260) 456-2917 and make an appointment for assistance in filing their tax return.

For more information, contact Jean Joley at the Volunteer Center at (260) 424-3505.



Photo By Lauren Caggiano, CANI Development Coordinator

RSVP volunteer John Wunderlich helps a man with his taxes at the CANI site.

Head Start employees attend educational conference

Five CANI Head Start staff will attend a conference April 2-4 in Indianapolis sponsored by the Indiana Association of the Education of Young Children.

The employees will have the opportunity to

participate in a variety of early childhood conference sessions. This year's keynote speakers are Dr. Jean Feldman, who will speak about how kids and teachers can have fun in the classroom. Rob Cleveland will speak about how to put a new twist on the art of storytelling.

To find out more about CANI, visit our website at www.canihelp.org.

CANI Golf 2009

Autumn Ridge Golf Club - Fort Wayne, IN Wednesday, May 13

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

CANI's mission is incredibly vital to our communities as we work to help families in need each day!

CANI participates in economic development, family development, mentoring, adult education, and job training.

We provide families access to quality childcare, preschool education, emergency food and utility assistance, affordable and livable housing, and medical and dental care.

All of these efforts are strengthened by the dollars raised through CANI Golf.



Compete for great prizes!

Event Details

Date: Wed, May 13, 2009
Course: Autumn Ridge Golf Club
11420 Auburn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Pricing Information:

Single Player \$100
Foursome \$400
Golfer fee includes: Lunch, Golf, Cart, Beverages, Dinner and Player Gift

Schedule of Events:

11:00 am. Registration
Lunch
Practice Green Open
12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
5:30 p.m. Dinner & Awards
Format: Florida Scramble

Contests Include: **Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Putting, Chipping, Hit the Green, and MORE!**

Sponsorship Levels

(Contact CANI for more info)

Presenting Sponsor	\$5,000
Dinner Sponsor	\$2,500
Golf Cart Sponsor	\$2,500
Refreshment Cart Sponsor	\$1,500
Lunch Sponsor	\$1,500
Course Sponsor	\$1,000
Practice Green or Driving Range	\$500
Awards Sponsor	\$300
Scoreboard Sponsor	\$250
Tee / Hole Sponsor	\$200

For sponsorships that include a foursome (\$1,000 and above), please list players' names to the right.

Please send registration and payment to:

CANI GOLF 2009
P.O. Box 10570
Fort Wayne, IN 46853-0570

Make all checks payable to CANI.

For more information, call
Kim Myers or Jennie Renner
at (260) 399-4106 or 399-4103
or visit www.canihelp.org

Level of Sponsorship (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Company Name _____
(if applicable)

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I will be golfing with a foursome which includes:

1. (team captain) _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

_____/We will be attending the dinner immediately following the outing