

CANI

Fighting Poverty. Building Hope.

Chronicles

WHO CANI BE? Opens Up New Worlds

A few hours can forever change the life of a young person for the better.

That's why CANI has invested so much time and energy into its career shadow day program. Twenty-one local middle school aged students got a glimpse of the "real world" through the agency's second annual WHO CANI BE? career shadow day this summer.

CANI connected the youth with mentors in their respective fields. The participants then went into the work place for a few hours to explore a possible career of their choice. The idea is that exposing low-income youth to careers can give them motivation to work hard towards a goal and break the cycle of poverty.

Youth Coordinator Megan Kinney has laid a solid foundation from last year's programming. The program has grown from a humble five participants to twenty-one. This year, it was about tweaking and adding some aspects to make it even more effective, according to Kinney.

Megan highlighted three new activities this year. First, prior to the shadow day, the students participated in a "real-world" activity, where they made choices about housing, transportation, etc. and saw how those decisions might affect their future.

Also, relating to the future, the participants were asked to draw a picture of themselves at a posi-

tive place in the future and ponder the decisions needed to get there. This activity was designed to encourage these youth to consider positive choices and the resources available to achieve a goal.

Following the orientation, the youth were ready to go into the workplace. The industries and careers were just as varied as last year. The mentors, companies and careers included:

- Dr. Stover, St. Joe Veterinary Hospital
- Kami Kinney, Elite Woman
- CANI Head Start
- Ashley "Hizzout", Remedy FM
- Renee Schiebel, Parkview Health
- Jeff Wells, SRT Prosthetics
- David Heart Photography
- I Du Creative Group
- Sharon Eutsler, Designs By Sharon
- Lt. Kevin Zelt, FWPD
- Nicole Riegling, Apsurge
- John Hudson, Grinsfelder Associates
- Troy Ganser, TAG Art Company
- Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
- Dr. McCullough, IPFW

Kinney said the program was well received by both the participants and the mentors.

"We've hit on some good stuff," she said about the program's effects.

Looking to the future, she said she hopes to secure 30 participants and form more relationships in the community.

"I feel it is a wonderful program and really gives children an insight to what the "REAL WORLD" has to offer and what really goes on out there. If I could afford to give to this cause for these children, I would do it in a heartbeat...I can't thank CANI enough for giving my daughter this opportunity...Thanks again..."

- Mother of WHO CANI BE? Participant



Photo Contributed

WHO CANI BE? 2010 participants enjoyed a dinner at Eddie Merlot's. The purpose of the dinner was to expose them to cultural experiences, like fine dining and prepare them for workplace dining etiquette.



Photo By Annie Henderson, Center Supervisor

WHO CANI BE? Participant Briana shadowed Head Start teachers at Hanna-Creighton. Brianna said she wants to be a teacher because her brother has learning problems and she wants to help.

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CANI Mission

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

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CANI Offices

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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

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349-0713

200 S Cavin St.
Ligonier, IN 46767
894-3048

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1208 S Wayne St.
Angola, IN 46703
665-1160

Whitley
Lehmborg Medical Bldg
333 N Oak St, Ste K
Columbia City, IN 46725
248-2848

The following offices only provide childcare assistance...

Elkhart
421 S 2nd St, Ste 420
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-293-3460

Kosciusko
1515 Provident Drive
Warsaw, IN 46580
574-267-2817

CANI Hours of Operation

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Friday

CANI WILL BE CLOSED ON OCT. 11 IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY.

Have you heard?
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Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com



CANI SEEKING HOMEBUYERS

CANI is proud to offer a new home purchase program for residents in our community. This program is designed to provide an affordable homeownership opportunity for eligible homebuyers who can obtain financing to purchase a home. All applicants must have incomes at or between 60-80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), adjusted for family size and must occupy the home as their principal residence (call CANI office for AMI details).

The purchase/rehab/resale program provides the opportunity for applicants to purchase a home from CANI that has been rehabbed and placed back on the market for resale at an affordable price. Rehabilitation will include but is not limited to weatherization, roofing, heating and cooling systems, electrical upgrades, appliances, and landscaping. This program is available in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties.

For more information, please contact Barb Cayce at (260) 423-3546 ext. 257

Home For Sale

331 Tanglewood Drive • New Haven, IN 46774

- **Spacious Ranch on 70'x120' Lot**
- **1305 Sq.Ft. Living Space**
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For More Info:

Janel Cain

260.423.3546

janelcain@canihelp.org

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

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

HIGHSCOPE: ANOTHER WAY TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

CANI Head Start teachers regularly go above and beyond their responsibilities to better themselves to make more of a difference in the health and development of children in the program. One way to do this is through professional development, specifically obtaining additional certification.

The following CANI Head Start employees have recently obtained HighScope certification:

- Kim Swain
 - Jennica Kerby
 - Pat Cooper-Pinkston
- (Seven more are expected to follow shortly.)

According to its Web site, the HighScope organization has a “longstanding international reputation in the field of early childhood education.” Since 1970, they have been a leader in preschool education and teacher training, both nationally and internationally.

In general terms, the certification process, conducted by HighScope, recognizes teachers whose practice reflects a high degree of knowledge about child development and skill in implementing the HighScope educational approach and curriculum.



Stock Photo

Certifications like HighScope can improve a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

Beyond the general educational requirements and training that is provided for all CANI Head Start teachers and teacher assistants, CANI offers, through a collaboration with the Early Childhood Alliance, specific and specialized High/Scope training to achieve maximum impact in the classroom.

The High/Scope Teacher Certification training process is objective and rigorous. Kathy Frank, CANI Head Start's Early Childhood Education manager, detailed the process.

First, teachers complete voluntary coursework – content specific to early childhood development and practice. This curriculum can be taken either during the summer or during the school year. Then, participants are required to engage in classroom observations to determine whether they understand and use the information they learn.

Following this, they submit child observation records, narratives regarding both team planning, an explanation of how the teacher incorporates children's interests and takes into consideration varying developmental levels. Also required are a professional development narrative, a copy of a current government license or certificate, and an application.

According to Kathy, High Scope credentialing is an important landmark in a teacher's career because it “raises the quality of services” the agency can offer children and families.

For more information about HighScope, visit www.highscope.org.

A Closer Look at Healthcare Reform

PBS 39 at 7:30pm on Wednesday, Sept. 22nd

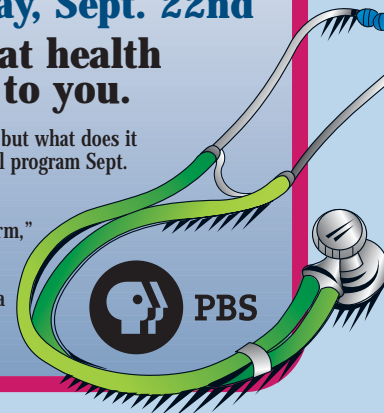
Tune in to learn about what health insurance reform means to you.

Healthcare reform has been a hot topic of conversation in the past year; but what does it all mean to YOU? How will it affect our community? Tune in to a special program Sept. 22nd at 7:30 p.m., on PBS, Channel 39 and find out for yourself!

This half hour call-in program, called “A Closer Look a Healthcare Reform,” will feature expert panelists:

- Mary Haupt, Executive Director, Neighborhood Health Clinic
- David Roos, Executive Director, Covering Kids and Families of Indiana
- Jim Porter, Senior VP Revenue Cycle Management, Parkview Health
- Paige Wilkins, Covering Kids and Families Supervisor, CANI

Have you heard?
CANI has a blog.
Check it out here:
www.insidecani.blogspot.com



CANI HELPS FAMILIES KEEP THEIR COOL

As the temperature rises, people naturally want to seek refuge from the heat in a cool house or apartment. And for the elderly or sick, it can be a health hazard. Yet an air conditioner can be a costly investment for someone on a fixed income.

CANI helps families beat the heat with the Summer Cooling program. Between June 1st and July 15th, the agency distributed 173 air conditioners. During this same time period last year, CANI reported distributing 125 air conditioners.

People who want an air conditioner must meet the program criteria:

- Elderly (60+), with a letter from your doctor stating a medical necessity for an air conditioner.
- Disabled as defined by receiving disability benefits, with a letter from your doctor stating a medical necessity for an air conditioner.
- Child, five (5) or younger with a letter from the child's doctor stating a medical necessity.

CANI provided air conditioners to those who met the above criteria. Additionally, some

clients were eligible for \$50 electric credits. The program ended August 31.

For more information about CANI's energy assistance programs, visit, www.canihelp.org/EnergyAssistance.htm



THE POWER OF FRIENDS

The research about the power of mentoring speaks for itself. Studies have found that people who participate in mentoring relationships experience a number of positive benefits, including an increase in self-worth and positive social attitudes and relationships.

CANI recognizes the importance of reaching out to low-income individuals at an early age. This is because many of the causes of poverty, such as lack of postsecondary education and single parenthood, can be prevented if young people are pro-

vided key resources during this formative time.

CANI has expanded its Family Development services with the addition of a mentoring program. "FRIENDS," an acronym for "Friends Reinforcing, Inspiring, Encouraging, Nurturing the Development of Self-Sufficiency," is a mentoring program designed to help children and adults become more self-sufficient and move out of poverty.

At this time the agency is seeking to expand its pool of adult mentors to help students at Whitko Community Elementary Schools. Eventually CANI plans to extend the program to match adults with peer mentors, and serve other schools located in the CANI service area.

Specifically, mentors will assist children in building the 40 Developmental Assets that help young people grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible adults. When children are developing these assets they are also learning to become self-sufficient.

The parents of the participants are equally engaged in the process. During their child's mentoring experience, CANI will open up the experience to parents who might need or want a mentor.

"We want the whole family to become involved," FRIENDS Coordinator Mary Neher said.

As the name implies, the program is rooted in developing relationships. The mentor can serve as a person to help with life goals and issues like budgeting, earning a GED or going back to college, for example. Above all, the person should act as a friend, someone to lend an ear during good and bad times.

"By being their friend and giving them guidance, (mentors) can affect change," Mary said.

The time commitment involved to mentor a child is thirty minutes a week. Volunteers will meet the child at his or her school. The adult mentor program is currently being developed. CANI will offer training for adult mentors to better understand the culture of poverty.

Those interested in mentoring may contact Mary Neher, (260) 423-3546, ext. 325.



Stock Photo
Reading is a great way to bond with a child.

Have
you heard?
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CANI BENEFITS FROM SUMMER HELP

This summer, CANI hired six, part-time temporary staff to help with projects in various programs. Although the nature of the work varied, the six shared a common bond: they are all young adults with a connection to CANI.

RasAmen Oladuwa

RasAmen, or “Ras” as we called her, was a big help in the Development Department. She undertook the huge project of sorting and organizing the storage room. She also did data entry – and her favorite job – helped with CANI’s entry in the Three Rivers Festival parade.

Ras, who is the niece of Director of Administration and Development Sherry Early-Aden, said she enjoyed the fact that staff were “nice, genuine and easy to get along with.”

We wish her the best as she moves on with the next chapter of her life. Ras is going away to school in Connecticut to study microeconomics. She hopes to become a financial consultant someday.



RasAmen Oladuwa

Amanda Miller

Amanda Miller, granddaughter of Head Start Secretary Elnora Coulter, learned a lot about economic development through her work with Housing Project Coordinator Janel Cain. Amanda was a big help in assisting with the Quality of Life planning process, producing newsletters, planning for the Waynedale picnic, and conducting research.

She said she enjoyed her time with Janel because she was pleasant and easy to work with. She will return to IPFW this fall, where she is studying business.



Amanda Miller

Caleb Ramp

Caleb, son of Weatherization Inspector Ted Ramp, worked in food service at the Head Start site at Hanna-Creighton, where he helped serve breakfast, lunch and a snack.

Caleb said he was interested in the job because he likes helping people and it was less pressure than in a fast food setting.

In hindsight, he said he “learned a lot of small things” on the job.



Caleb Ramp

Jazmin Roper

Jazmin, daughter of Family Development Supervisor Laurisa Roper, likes working with computers, so helping out in the IT department was a natural fit. Specifically, she assisted by inventorying and organizing the IT department.

Jazmin is an incoming freshman at Purdue University, where she plans to study electrical engineering.



Jazmin Roper

KathAnn Cassel

As the daughter of Planning and Quality Supervisor Lesa Cassel, KathAnn became familiar with CANI at a young age. So working at CANI is almost like being at home.

KathAnn was busy this summer assisting Covering Kids and Families Supervisor Paige Wilkins entering Medicaid application information.

Through this process, she said she learned that “a lot of people need help.” She will return this fall as a junior at Anderson University.



KathAnn Cassel

Sierah Moore

Sierah, daughter of Housing Voucher Specialist Laura Moore, assisted with Head Start administrative tasks. Working in a non-profit setting proved to be a great experience, as she hopes to pursue a master’s degree in non-profit management. During her time at CANI she had the opportunity to witness the organizational process.

Sierah summed up the sentiment of all of our summer staff: “It’s been a really valuable experience.”



Sierah Moore

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“a lot of people need help.”
-KathAnn Cassel

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!

July 2010

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We may have a **FREE PRESCHOOL**
PROGRAM for him or her!!

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.

For more information, contact

CANI Head Start
227 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 420-2833



Would you like to get the CANI Chronicles delivered to you by email?

CANI is offering an electronic version of the newsletter to our valued readers. Please contact Development Coordinator Lauren Caggiano and let her know how you would like to receive your newsletter, (260) 760-8924, laurencaggiano@canihelp.org.

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This Agency Endowment was opened by CANI to establish a fund which is kept in perpetuity to provide an ongoing stream of revenue generated by the investment of principal.

When you give to CANI's Agency Endowment fund your gift becomes 20% bigger because the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne matches 20% of your gift up to \$10,000 per calendar year. So your donation of \$100 becomes a gift of \$120. Your donation, plus the 20 % match, will be added to CANI's endowment fund.

Your tax-deductible charitable contribution to the Community Foundation supports CANI and helps make our community an even better place to call home.

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