

2020 ANNUAL REPORT**CASI****BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dear Friends of Community Action of Southern Indiana,

Dr. King spoke a lot about the Beloved Community. For Dr. King the Beloved Community was a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by people committed to helping one another and working together for the common good. In Dr. King's Beloved Community poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice will be replaced by sisterhood and brotherhood. Love and trust will prevail over hatred and fear. Peace will prevail over conflict.

Community Action of Southern Indiana is working to make Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community a reality in Clark, Floyd, and Harrison Counties. We support and empower families and communities striving to reach self-sufficiency and we work to provide life enhancing opportunities for every individual and family desiring to experience extraordinary change in their lives.

2020 was a year of extraordinary challenges for many Southern Indiana families. COVID-19 changed how we live and put many individuals and families in places of insecurity. Community Action of Southern Indiana has been working hard to offer help and security to individuals through an ever-growing number of programs.

Community Action of Southern Indiana's programs provide critical and practical support in areas such as rental assistance, help with practical needs, help with utility bills, financial literacy, small business development, education, health, high-speed internet access, and more.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused Community Action of Southern Indiana to change some procedures and protocols, but from our new home at the former Spring Hill School, we are open to serve the community.

Community Action of Southern Indiana will continue to involve the entire community in assessing local needs and attacking the causes and conditions of poverty so that together we can overcome them. Our community partners are critical to our Mission's success. By working together, we can help individuals and families acquire useful skills and knowledge and gain access to new opportunities in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

Together we can make a difference and help build the Beloved Community.



Phil Ellis
Executive Director



Larry Jordan Jr.
Board President (2020-21)

Community Action of Southern Indiana PROGRAMS

Head Start / Early Head Start

CASI's Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve over 300 children, ages birth to 5. Families and children receive education, case management, and health and nutrition services from Head Start's Education and Family Services Departments.

Energy Assistance (EAP)

Community Action of Southern Indiana's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households with high winter heating and summer cooling costs. Households with incomes of 150% or less of the Federal Poverty Guidelines may receive benefits to relieve an energy burden. About 4,000 people receive help with high energy bills each year. The Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the high costs of energy, but it does not have the funds available to pay all of a household's energy costs.

Weatherization

Working hand-in-hand with the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, CASI's Weatherization Assistance Program permanently lowers utility bills by providing energy saving home improvements such as air-sealing, insulation, and furnace tune-ups. Weatherization services are provided at no cost to the customer and are available to both renter and homeowner households with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Community Action of Southern Indiana's Housing Choice Voucher Program is committed to the idea that every family has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. Low-income families select housing based on individual needs and are provided housing vouchers that allow them to utilize housing from approved landlords.

Family Development and Crisis Assistance

The Family Development and Crisis Assistance Program helps people and families experiencing a financial shortfall caused by external factors. A qualified Indiana Family Development Specialist assists individuals and families with though financial crises with prudent and practical financial assistance and with case management.

Minority Health Initiative

The Minority Health Initiative works to eliminate health disparities through research, training, education, advocacy, and by improving access to health care services for at-risk populations. Community Action of Southern Indiana's Minority health Initiative focuses on obesity, diabetes, and cancer for residents of Clark, Floyd, and Harrison Counties.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Help When I Needed It

The COVID-19 Pandemic has made life harder in a number of different ways for all kinds of individuals and families in Southern Indiana. Community Action of Southern Indiana has been there throughout the COVID Crisis to offer support to people in need.

CASI's Family Development Program is one of the ways CASI has been able to offer practical help to families in need. Using funds made available by the United Way, the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, and the Cares Act, Maria Waters, MSW, CSW, LSW, and IFDS, CASI's Family Development Program Manager and Angelica Perez, IFDS, CASI's Family Development Specialist have been able to help about 250 individuals and families during the past year.

One such person is Brandon Banet from Borden, IN. Brandon works for Ford in Louisville, but when Ford had a mass shutdown due to COVID in early 2020, Brandon's financial situation became a concern. Brandon's situation was further complicated when his 9 year old daughter had to attend school virtually.

"They tried to return to in-person classes," Brandon remembers, "but the teacher got COVID so they had to shut back down. I had to stay home with my daughter and ended up being off work for most of the year."

Until COVID hit, Brandon had been able to make some extra money by acting and by playing in a semi-professional regional Poker association. "Sometimes I would make more money from acting and playing poker than I did from my job at Ford," Brandon says. "COVID shut down all of my acting prospects and I could not play cards at all last year. My finances got hit pretty hard."

Things are beginning to turn around for Brandon. His daughter is now able to attend in-person classes so he has been able to return to work at Ford and he has some acting prospects on the horizon.

"CASI was able to help me just when I needed help," Brandon says. "They helped me with rent and my electric bill and helped me work my way through these difficult times. I am very thankful my daughter and I had somewhere to turn in our hour of need."

Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance

The Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance programs assists families and individuals maintain housing stability by assisting with living expenses such as rent, deposits, utility bills, internet expenses.

Rental Assistance Fund

The Rental Assistance Fund helps individuals and families who are facing difficulty paying rent due to financial circumstance brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESG/HUB Homeless Prevention

The ESG/HUB Homeless Prevention programs help families and individuals who are at risk of homelessness due to negative financial circumstance brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESG/HUB Rapid Rehousing

The ESG/HUB Rapid Rehousing programs helps families and individuals experiencing housing insecurity access safe, decent, and affordable housing.

Southern Indiana Tobacco Prevention

The Southern Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition brings community partners together to reduce tobacco use within at-risk communities in Clark County.

Life Literacy Academy

The Life Literacy Academy is a youth mentoring program designed to follow a select group of students from 8th grade through 12th grade. The youth cohort is engaged in the areas of character education, leadership, critical thinking. The program emphasizes the Search Institute’s 40 developmental assets and Character Counts! Six pillars of trustworthiness, which are respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, and character. The Life Literacy Academy focuses on career or college readiness.

Dolly Parton’s Imaginations Library

The Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school, no matter their family’s income. The books are hand selected by a committee of early childhood experts to be age appropriate and to align with the child’s developmental needs.

Empower Southern Indiana

Empower Southern Indiana helps to provide financial empowerment to low-income individuals and to at-risk communities. By providing financial opportunities to those who are denied opportunity or to those have a hard time accessing financial services and benefits, Empower Southern Indiana helps people realize their potential. Empower Southern Indiana conducts a variety of financial empowerment classes. It also administers the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program, which is a matched saving program that helps qualified participants reach self-sufficiency by providing additional savings for education, housing, home rehabilitations, transportation, or to start a small business. Empower Southern Indiana’s Microenterprise Program helps eligible people start or expand a business. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) provides free income tax preparation to anyone who is income, or otherwise, qualified.

Garden Renaissance

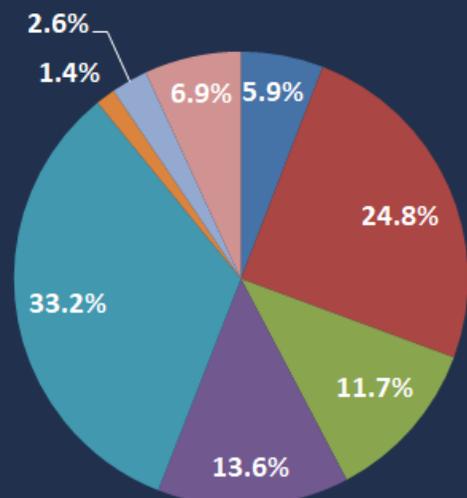
Garden Renaissance builds a sense of community through the shared work of sustainable gardening. Garden Renaissance creates healthy food options for neighborhoods where healthy food is hard to get. The community gardens bring community partners and neighbors together to work for the common good to improve nutrition and health. The gardens also create a habitat for threatened pollinator species, provide educational opportunities, and beautify neighborhoods. The community gardens enrich the lives of area residents, enhance community cohesion, and encourage shared work and neighborhood pride.

Teen Boutique

Teen Boutique program improves self-esteem and independence by allowing low-income students to purchase \$100 of new clothes for school. The students have a choice between five different local stores and get to select clothes that reflect their personal tastes and style. Feelings of self-worth are increased and the student gets to look good at school.

CASI FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CSBG	\$492,522
EAP	\$2,081,963
EARLY HEAD START	\$979,490
HCVF	\$1,146,775
HEAD START	\$2,787,778
MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE	\$116,563
NAVIGATOR PROGRAM	\$218,840
WEATHERIZATION	\$578,840
TOTAL:	\$8,402,771





Community Action of Southern Indiana thanks its partners and supporters:

Floyd County Head Start	Floyd County Health Dept.	Jeffersonville Housing Authority	WIC Program (Clark County)
Salvation Army	Baptist Health Floyd	Mark's Barbershop	Republic Bank
BB&T	Life Spring Health Systems	CEASe of Scott County	Clark County REMC
Regions Bank	IAEYC	NuLook Barbershop	Anthem Inc.
Harrison Co. Community Services	Indiana Community Action Association	Local Churches - Floyd & Clark County	West Clark Community Schools
Clark Memorial Health	Indiana Cancer Consortium	Lochmueller Group, INC	Clarksville Community Schools
Indiana Tobacco Coalition	Greater Clark Co. Schools	Indiana State Dept. of Health	CFSI Youth Philanthropy Co.
Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd Co.	KY African-Americans Against Cancer	New Albany- Floyd County School Corp	Indiana University SE School of Nursing
Main Source Bank	Scottsburg Kiwanis	Makowsky Oil	Lifespring
Louie Connect with Family Scholar House	Indiana Minority Health Coalition	CASI Service Area Township Trustees	Indiana Community Health Workers
Covering Kids & Families	Maria Waters	Scott County School Dist. #2	Scott County School Dist. #1
Duke Energy	Irving Materials, Inc.	Wellness Coalition	WesBanco
Kaiser Home Support Services	ISBD	PNC Bank	Vectren
First Savings Bank	Jersey Mikes	Ivy Tech Community College	DeJay's and Pryor's Place
NAACP	Maria White	Joni Pruneski, LCSW	Dustin T. White
Family Health Center of Southern Indiana	Jefferson Community & Technical College	Scout Co. Community Foundation	Physical and Nutrition Coalition
Joseph Fleck, DDS	5/3 Bank	Region 10 Adult Ed.	New Albany Housing Authority
IN Family Assist. Program (Nat. Guard Armory, New Albany)	Purdue Ext. - Clark, Floyd, & Harrison Counties	Community Foundation of Southern Indiana	Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority
Communities in Schools of Clark County	Scott County Chamber of Commerce	Kentuckiana Vet. Community Integration Coalition (KVIC)	Rogers Weatherization Solutions
MCH- OB Navigation Program	Centerstone	Veteran Affairs	Disabled American Veterans
Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana	Volunteers of America - Mid States	Samtec Rock Creek Community School	