



# 2014 Annual Report

Western Indiana Community Action Agency, Inc.

## Offices:

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Greencastle, IN 46135  
(765) 653-4017
- 2326 N. Section St.  
Sullivan, IN 47882  
(812) 268-6439

## Programs:

- Energy Assistance
- Head Start
- Indigent Medical Care
- WICAA Child Care
- Foster Grandparents
- Retired & Senior Volunteers
- Weatherization
- Women, Infants & Children

## WICAA Celebrates 50 Years

In 2014 WICAA celebrated 50 years of serving our community. Some of our earliest programs included Head Start, Foster Grandparents, Weatherization, Commodities, Friendly Visitor and Energy Assistance which was called Project Safe. In the early 1980's Indigent Medical Care Program was started with a Home Health Block Grant of \$30,000. Later, School Age Child Care, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and WIC were added.

WICAA has a long history of delivering quality services to low-income families. We help to



Paul J. Kelly II, Rose Mary Price and Board President Marlena Johnson-Hill

improve the conditions in which low-income people live and im-

prove the overall strength of our community.

The Board of Directors established a new award named after former executive director Paul J. Kelley II.

The award will honor Board members who demonstrate a commitment to service to the Board and the community. Rose Mary Price was the first recipient of the award. Rose Mary has served on the Board of Directors since 1996 and is currently Secretary. She also serves as the chairperson of the Personnel Committee. Paul Kelley presented the award named in his honor.

## Board of Directors

*President—Marlena Johnson-Hill*  
*Secretary—Rose Mary Price*

*Vice President—Judy Anderson*  
*Treasurer—Cary Sparks*

### Clay County

John Mace  
Rose Mary Price  
Bill Purcell

Helen Webb

### Vigo County

Judy Anderson  
Ray Azar

Dot Hamann

Marlena Johnson-Hill

Patricia McGee

Cary Sparks

### Putnam County

Steve Fields  
Sharon Pitcock

Duke Bennett

Tim Cullen

John Fisher

Michel Starkey

Brittany Trout

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## Head Start



In 2014, Vigo County Head Start added 20 additional child slots, bringing the funded enrollment to 224 children. Four additional job opportunities were created to support the enrollment increase. Over the course of the year, a cumulative total of 493 children and their families were provided comprehensive school readiness, education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services.

Community partners, such as the Lion's Club, Vigo County Health Department, Hamilton Center,

Covered Bridge Special Education District and Indiana State University assisted with bringing Head Start children current with health requirements. These services were provided at little or no cost.

Two-thousand fourteen proved to be a challenging year for Head Start families. There was a notable 27% increase of families identified in crisis situations over last year's numbers. With 751 referrals given, these families and many others were able to improve their living situations.

The National Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) scores for 2014 were released. Vigo County Head Start CLASS scores met the criteria to retain the Head Start grant without competition.

Vigo County Head Start continues to maintain Level Three in the Paths to Quality – Indiana's Child Care Rating System.

*Foster Grandparent volunteers provided 49,646 hours of service during 2014.*

## Foster Grandparent Program

This intergenerational program brings together people of all ages and backgrounds. To develop a better understanding with others we provide the Foster Grandparent Volunteers with training on diversity. The Foster Grandparent Volunteers have the opportunity to attend local activities such as health fairs and other activities geared toward the advancement of senior citizens. Fos-

ter Grandparents also participate in different special events hosted by the Volunteer Stations.

During 2014, 50 Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provided 49,646 hours of service. They provided classroom assistance in school readiness activities to preschool age children at child care centers and Head Start classrooms, tutored students in public schools in literacy and math, mentored disadvantaged youth at com-

munity based sites, and provided assistance to young mothers and their children. The primary focus area of this project is School Readiness and K-12 Success. At the end of the 12-month performance period 100% of the preschool age children in child care centers and Head Start demonstrated gains in school readiness and 90% of the students tutored had improvement in academic performance.

## Retired and Senior Volunteer Program



**Ramp It Up Program**

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program had an enrollment of 201 active volunteers in 2014. There were 89 volunteers who reported 10,886.25 service hours. RSVP volunteered at 27 different stations throughout our service area. The RSVP volunteer provided a variety of community services including mentoring children, operating a recycling center, assisting in food banks, assisting in produc-

tions at the local Putnam County Playhouse, assisting in non-profit thrift stores, providing friendly assistance to homebound individuals and those living in nursing homes, and participating in many community events within in each county we serve.

This year we had five RSVP Volunteers at our WICAA Recycling Center who served over 433 clients with the recycling of alumi-

num cans. Our recycling center took in 9.38 tons (18,796 lbs.) of aluminum and kept that amount waste out of our landfills. The Ramp It Up program has four wheelchair ramp applications approved and scheduled for 2015. These ramps will be built for disabled individuals that are in need of wheelchair ramps to have access to necessary life sustaining appointments as well as social interaction and have no means of obtaining one.

## WICAA Child Care

In 2014 School Age Child Care operated in 11 elementary schools serving a total of 598 students throughout the year. We continued our partnership with the Vigo County School Corporation and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant at five of our after school sites. The grant teachers were hired by the school corporation and placed at DeVaney, Farrington Grove, Ouabache, Sugar Grove, and Terre Town. There was a certified teacher in place each afternoon during SACC programming.

We maintained several active partnerships in the community throughout the year. Kind News Volunteers presented lessons about animal care at each 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant sites after care programs. Our newest partnership was with the Maple Center to pilot a "Well Fit" program at Farrington Grove Elementary. Well FIT was a program to focus and educate children and families about nutrition and body health. Students from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology presented science lessons at each grant school site as well. Additional community partners included

DADC volunteers, Union Hospital Injury Prevention Program, ISU early field experience students and their art club students and Rose-Hulman chemistry club students.

WICAA started a Summer Child Care Program this year for children ages 3-6. During the summer every week there were several educational and fun activities planned with the children. In August of 2014 WICAA Child Care continued to care for Head Start children before and after the operational hours of Head Start.



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

## Women, Infants & Children

Average monthly enrollment for the Vigo County WIC Program for the year 2014 stayed at 3,450. The unduplicated count for the year 2014 was 5,481 participants – 1,658 Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Non Breastfeeding Women, 2,028 Infants, and 1,795 Children.

Through the implementation of Participant Centered Services the WIC Program staff supported nutrition education goals set by

the Indiana WIC Program. The WIC Program promotes breastfeeding as not only the best nutritional source for infants, but also as a tool to reduce the incidence of infant mortality.

The breastfeeding initiation rate for the Vigo and Sullivan County for the year 2013-14 is 69%. The State average is 71%. The WIC Program has partnered with the Indiana Tobacco Quitline Net-

work and Baby & Me Tobacco Free Program of Union Hospital Family Medicine Center and has made several prenatal referrals to the smoking cessation programs. The WIC Program continues to promote consumption of fruits and vegetables, breastfeeding, healthy nutrition and physical activity by providing healthy supplemental foods and variety of nutrition education materials and activities.

*The WIC Program served 5,481 participants during 2014.*

## Energy Assistance Program

During 2014 the Energy Assistance Program served 4,784 families for a total of 10,935 people. Over \$1.7 million in benefits were provided to clients for regular and crisis heating assistance.

Energy Assistance is a federally funded program that helps low-income families with the high cost of home energy. The program helps with heating and electrical

assistance. The program begins in November and clients can apply at the Vigo, Clay or Putnam offices through mid-May.

We were also able to assist clients with the Duke Helping Hand Program. Eligible clients could receive \$100 to \$300 in addition to Energy Assistance Program benefits.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program was another avenue to assist clients in need during 2014.

This program assists clients with utility bills and helps to cover some costs that are not eligible under the Energy Assistance Program.



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## Indigent Medical Care



### Weatherization

The Weatherization Program is designed to insulate and tighten up homes to reduce heating costs and improve the overall safety and comfort of the homes. Furnaces, gas water heaters and other gas appliances are inspected by our Building

Analyst before services are provided. Furnaces are replaced when cracked heat exchangers are detected. There is no cost for Weatherization services. Clients must be at or below 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines to qualify.

In 2014, we weatherized 56 homes which housed 130 people. The majority were site built homes with natural gas as their energy source. In the most recent Weatherization analysis report, covering April 2011 to March 2012, WICAA led the state with average energy savings of 34%.

### Financial Summary

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Energy Assistance Program	2,011,620
Weatherization	501,209
Head Start	1,521,198
Foster Grandparent Program	292,489
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	43,668
Hardest Hit Fund	15,452
School Age Child Care	442,718
Women, Infants and Children	516,133
Indigent Medical Care	72,642
Aluminum Recycling	6,816
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	9,288
In-Kind (Head Start, IMC, FGP and RSVP)	820,143
Donations	6,973
Total	6,260,350

### Staff

Energy Assistance Director	Marlene Swan
Head Start Director	Shelly Vicars
Indigent Medical Care Director	Jackie Hughes
Child Care Director	TeOnna Lewis
Senior Programs Director	Patty Baynard-Wade
Weatherization Director	Randy Dunfee
Women, Infants & Children Director	Rajul Shah
Director of Administrative Services	Pam Vicars
Finance Director	Debbie Kearschner
Executive Director	Carole Barr