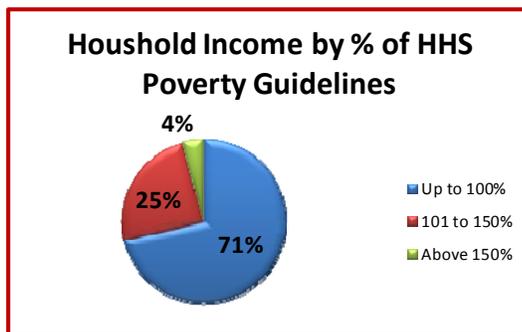


# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## WESTERN INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.

2016 marked WICAA's fifty-second year of serving our community. As you review our Annual Report you will see the many services we offer to improve people's lives in our community. Approximately 71% of the people we served in 2016 had incomes at or below the Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.



During 2016 the staff of WICAA served 10,605 individuals in 5,203 families. These families included:

- 1,501 infants and children under the age of 5
- 3,518 individuals between the ages of 6 and 23
- 3,947 individuals between the ages of 28 and 54
- 1,639 age 55 and older

The percentage of households we serve who are at or below 150% of poverty has remained fairly steady over the past several years, however, we are seeing an increase in households at the lowest poverty levels. Households at or below 50% of poverty increased by over 20% compared to last year which indicates that we are serving those most in need in our community.

## WICAA Board of Directors 2016

President—Marlena Johnson-Hill  
Secretary—Dot Hamann

Vice President—Judy Anderson  
Treasurer—Rose Mary Price

### **Clay County**

John Mace  
Rose Mary Price  
Bill Purcell

### **Putnam County**

Steve Fields  
Helen Webb

### **Vigo County**

Judy Anderson  
Duke Bennett  
John Fisher  
Brittany Foster  
Kristin Gross  
Dot Hamann  
Mary Beth Harris  
Marlena Johnson-Hill  
Madonna Nally  
Jared Price  
Michel Starkey

### Locations:

- **705 South 5th Street  
Terre Haute, IN  
(812) 232-1264**
- **819 West Knight St.  
Brazil, IN  
(812) 446-4000**
- **620 Tennessee St.  
Greencastle, IN  
(765) 653-3011**
- **2306 N. Section St.  
Sullivan, IN  
(812) 268-6439**

### Programs:

Weatherization
Energy Assistance
Head Start
Indigent Medical Care
Women, Infants and Children
Foster Grandparents
Retired & Senior Volunteers
School Age Child Care



Head Start children during free time activities

## Head Start

In July, 2016, the Office of Health and Human Services approved Vigo County Head Start’s proposal to provide full day services in six classrooms. Currently, 120 children are served in full day classrooms and 30 children in part day classrooms. Vigo County Head Start served a cumulative total of 370 children and their families in 2016.

Vigo County Head Start strengthened services in multiple areas in 2016. The addition of two buses has assisted with providing more efficient transportation services to children. The partnership with Hamilton Center has expanded to include on-site direct skills behavior therapy. This is in response to an increase in challenging behaviors in

the program. A grant from the Wabash Valley Community Foundation has been received to host a Healthy Eating Education Training Series. Wabash Valley Children’s Dentistry continued to sponsor the Dental Club T-Shirts and Lion’s Club continued providing vision screenings to all Head Start children at no cost to the program.

*71% of WICAA clients have incomes at or below the federal poverty level.*

## Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program helps low income families meet the costs of heating their homes during the winter. In 2016, summer electric benefits were also available. Benefits are paid directly to utility companies on the household’s behalf. Families that include at risk members may receive additional benefits.

At risk family members include those that are elderly, disabled, veterans or young children up to five years old.

Indiana’s moratorium on utility shut-off begins on December 1 each year. Households that are determined to be eligible for Energy Assistance benefits

after October 1 cannot have their service disconnected between December 1 and March 15. During 2016, 7,111 individuals in 3,095 families were provided benefits through the Energy Assistance Program.

## Foster Grandparent Program



During 2016, 48 Foster Grandparent volunteers provided 52,150 hours of service. Foster Grandparents also participate in different special events hosted by the Volunteer Stations. The volunteers provided classroom assistance in school readiness activities to pre-school age children at child care centers

and Head Start classrooms, tutored students in public schools in literacy and/or math, mentored disadvantaged youth at community based sites, and provided assistance to young mothers and their children at Alternative for Living and Learning Nursery. 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 pre-school age children in child care centers and Head Start demonstrated gains in school readiness and 95% of the students tutored had improvement in academic performance.

## Women, Infants and Children

WIC enrollment data shows Vigo/Sullivan WIC served approximately 3,000 clients each month during the past year. Highlights of the past year include celebrating World Breastfeeding Week downtown at the August First Friday event and providing the Lactation Station for Vigo County Fair visitors. We were able to participate in the Farmers Market voucher program and offered clients vouchers to

purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. In August we hosted our own indoor market thanks to The Pickery Farm.

WIC continues to work with community partners to offer information and assistance to clients in a convenient location. Purdue Extension provided the Safe Sleep program and representatives from MDWise and ASPEN spent several afternoons enrolling clients and explaining their insur-

ance benefits. National Night Out, the Komen Race for a Cure, ISU Homecoming and the March of Dimes baby shower were all fun events where we provided information and outreach materials to the community.

The implementation of the use of an EBT card rather than paper vouchers has been the big event of the year. Statewide roll-out was completed in September and we now have everyone converted to this new system.



The Pickery Farmer's Market held in WICAA's Conference Room

## Retired and Senior Volunteers

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program had an enrollment of 132 active volunteers in 2016. There were 82 volunteers who reported 8,268 service hours. RSVP volunteers served at 30 different stations throughout our service area. The RSVP volunteers provided a variety of community services includ-

ing mentoring children, operating a recycling center, assisting in food banks, provided friendly assistance to homebound individuals and those living in nursing homes, and participating in many community events within each county we serve. This year we had five RSVP volunteers at our WICAA Recycling Center

who took in 11 tons (24,251 lbs.) of aluminum and kept that amount of waste out of our landfills. During the 2016 service year 36 volunteers served at the Putnam County Emergency Food Pantry. The Putnam County Emergency Food Pantry served 4,016 people and served a total of 54,936 meals.

*WICAA served 10,605 clients in 5,203 families in 2016*

## Weatherization

Twenty-eight homes containing 55 individuals were weatherized in 2016. Five of those homes were able to be weatherized because Healthy Homes funds were used to eliminate deferral issues. Four of those jobs were electrical upgrades and one job corrected plumbing leaks.

The Weatherization Program helps low-income families permanently reduce their energy consumption by making energy upgrades to the heating system and the shell of the home. Weatherization services also provide non-energy benefits by reducing or eliminating hazardous environmental condi-

tions that negatively impact health. The health effects most commonly linked to poor housing conditions are respiratory symptoms, hypothermia and skin and eye irritation. Young children and adults over age 65 are at the greatest risk as they generally spend a larger portion of their time in the home.

*Every dollar spent on weatherization improvements can return \$1.53 in energy savings.*

## Indigent Medical Care

In 2016 the Indigent Medical Care Program received a very generous donation of \$6,000 from the Vigo County Medical Alliance. This amount was donated from proceeds from the annual Medical Alliance fundraising luncheon. These funds help us to serve many peo-

ple who cannot afford the high cost of prescriptions.

We have seen a shift in client needs over the past two to three years due to the Affordable Care Act and the Healthy Indiana Plan which serves low income Hoosiers. While we con-

tinue to arrange for medical testing and procedures for those who still do not have insurance, we are seeing a growing need for prescription assistance due to high deductibles and the increasing cost of many prescription drugs.

## School Age Child Care

School Age Child Care has had a wonderful 2016! We served in seven before school programs and 12 after school programs at Vigo County schools. School Age Child Care continued the partnership with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning program. DeVaney, Ouabache and Sugar Grove were the three Title I schools selected to provide certified teachers during afterschool time.

We increased our programming by adding another academic component to our curriculum which was the Readoligist program and increasing our usage of Every Day Math into various theme areas. School Age Child Care also continued our partnership with Indiana State University Work-Study program

and Social Studies Education program, Kind News, Purdue Extension and Ivy Tech Community College.

We also for the third year held our WICAA Child Care Summer Preschool Program for children ages 3-6.

## Staff

Energy Assistance Director.....	Marlene Swan	Weatherization Director .....	Randy Dunfee
Head Start Director .....	Shelly Vicars	WIC Director.....	Mindi Wrin
Indigent Medical Care Director.....	Jackie Hughes	Director of Administrative Svcs.....	Pam Vicars
School Age Child Care Director....	TeOnna Lewis	Senior Programs Director .....	Patty Baynard-Wade
Finance Director.....	Debbie Kearschner	Executive Director .....	Carole Barr

## Financial Highlights

Program	Amount
Energy Assistance *	2,460,897
Weatherization	441,443
State Weatherization	17,332
Vectren Share the Warmth	29,207
Head Start	1,521,863
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	8,849
Foster Grandparent Program	295,344
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	40,255
School Age Child Care	466,826
Women, Infants and Children	612,609
Indigent Medical Care	48,579
WV Community Foundation	5,625
Aluminum Recycling	11,524
Donations	8,642
In-kind and Match (Head Start, FGP, RSVP)	447,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,416,562</b>

Employees	
Full time	65
Part time	23
Temporary	<u>44</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>

Financial Highlights are unaudited