



HOOSIER UPLANDS
Economic Development Corporation

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2019

"People Helping People Since 1966"



Board of Directors/Management Staff Christmas Dinner, December 17, 2019 at Spring Mill Inn, Lakeview Room. Pictured at the head table are (l to r) David L. Miller, CEO, Susan Miller, Reita Nicholson, Omer Nicholson, Marc Fields, Martha Fields, Board of Directors Chairperson, Dr. Mike Wilcox, Superintendent of Mitchell Community Schools and his daughter, Chloe Wilcox, who provided the entertainment and sang Christmas songs.



Hoosier Uplands



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Hoosier Uplands

Economic Development Corporation

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Persons with hearing/speech disabilities please call Frontier's TRS at (800) 743-3333
An Equal Opportunity Employer

All services provided by Hoosier Uplands are provided without regard to sex, race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity (or expression), disability or veteran status.

Corporate Mission Statement

Our mission is to plan, implement or cause to be implemented, and provide comprehensive services to the poor, elderly, and disabled.

This corporation will strive to alleviate poverty, improve living conditions, and provide access to health care and social services to those families and individuals in need within the service area.

All our endeavors will be pursued with the client in mind, never forgetting the value of every human being or the importance of our responsibility to the public which we serve.

Annual Community Services Award



Pictured (L to R), David L. Miller, CEO, Lisa Crane, Board Member serving Washington County Private Sector and the 2019 Hoosier Uplands Community Services Award recipient and Martha Fields, Board of Directors Chairperson.



Pictured (L to R), David L. Miller, CEO, and David Dedrick, Board Member serving Orange County Private Sector

One December 17, 2019, the Annual Community Services Award was acknowledged and presented by CEO, David L. Miller. The Community Services Award went to Board Members, Lisa Crane – Washington County and David Dedrick – Orange County.

Message from the Board of Directors

As with any progressive organization it is important to take a backward glance to evaluate and analyze the progress of the past year. In doing so, we find 2019 to have been quite productive. In November of 2018 the Shawnee Development Corporation opened the Eagle Place apartments in Loogootee. This year we are pleased to announce that all apartments are fully occupied in that facility.

Hoosier Uplands is an organization which helps people of all ages in Crawford, Orange, Lawrence, Washington and Martin counties. This year alone, we have provided service to over 2,000 patients at our Serenity Now Clinic. With our Aging Service programs, the agency has served over 1,000 clients. Through Head Start, 340 children and their families have been provided services. In monitoring area health concerns, 743 patients have been served with home health services as well as hospice care. As you read through the pages of the Annual Report you will see many more programs and how HUEDC has served others throughout the year.

The Board of Directors is proud to announce that there were two statewide awards presented to David L. Miller, our CEO, on behalf of Hoosier Uplands and our staff. The John Niederman Rural Development Leadership Award given by Prosperity Indiana and the 2019 Leadership Award given by the Indiana Affordable Housing Council. The Board of Directors would like to thank each dedicated staff member and commend the tireless efforts of our CEO. It is a pleasure to work with such professional people who strive to meet the needs of those in the counties that we serve.

May God continue to bless Hoosier Uplands and all of you.

Martha Fields
Board Chairperson



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

In 2019, we completed our 54th year as a corporation serving south central Indiana. The corporation employs over 240 people in a wide range of programs and services as outlined in this report.

During this past year, we had two fires at Persimmon Park Apts, during the rehab of the complex. Thankfully, no one was hurt and Natalie Powell and her staff did an excellent job on relocation of the tenants effected.

During 2019, we were pleased to award Community Development and Public Service grants to 20 different organizations including the Grace House in Marengo, Washington County 4-H Fair Board, Washington County Humane Society, Hoosier Hills PACT, Youth First Inc, Shoals Community Schools, Paoli Fire Department, and the City of Mitchell to name a few. We were also pleased to have 40 events at the Mitchell Opera House attended by over 4,000 people.

Also, during this past year, we moved our Shoals office to a new and larger location which will make it possible to better serve the people of Martin County. We added the ECHO Program and a new program for veterans and agriculture careers.

I am proud to work with such a dedicated Board of Directors and staff. We all look forward to a better and more productive 2020.

David L. Miller
Chief Executive Officer





Area XV Agency on Aging

Area XV Agency Aging and Disability Services

The Aging and Disability Services Division of Hoosier Uplands serves those who are facing the loss of independence due to age or disability. The Area XV Agency on Aging provides a diverse range of services for the disabled and elderly residents of Crawford, Lawrence, Orange, and Washington counties.

Service needs vary with each individual. The first point of contact for every inquiry made by or on behalf of an elderly or disabled client is our Aging and Disability Resource Center. The staff will provide information and resources that are available within the communities, conducts the initial intake procedures, and initial needs assessment for the individuals requesting assistance.

When clients need additional assistance, the Information & Referral/Aging and Disability Resource Center will offer Long-Term Support Options Counseling. Options Counseling is an interactive decision-support process whereby consumers, family members and/or significant others are supported in their deliberations to determine appropriate long-term care choices. Also, the Information and Referral/Aging & Disability Resource Center will make referrals to our Case Management staff.

Case Management provides a professional case manager who will set up an appointment for a home visit. The case manager assesses the needs of the client to determine the appropriate services and a funding source to meet the client's needs.



Some of the services available for a client include: home health aide, homemaker, attendant care, respite, home delivered meals, transportation, skilled nursing care, durable medical equipment, assistive technology, home modifications and personal emergency response systems. The funding sources allocated to provide these services include: Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled

(CHOICE), Medicaid Waiver and Title III funds. In addition, the Family Caregiver grant funding under Title IIIE can provide respite for clients over the age of 60 and provide supplemental services such as home delivered meals, homemaker and medical supplies. These services under Title IIIE are provided on a temporary basis.

There are seven Senior Center/Congregate Nutrition sites within the four county area. These sites provide free meals to those people who are 60 years of age and older.

Legal Services are available to individuals age 60 and over. Services provided include power of attorney, guardianship, wills and general legal advice.

The division also has special events sponsored by Hoosier Uplands. They are designed to assist the elderly and disabled by providing information. Our Information, Health, and Fun Fair is one of the biggest events. Relevant information and a range of health screenings are available to attendees of this event. The division sets aside one day to honor the Nursing Facilities and Group Homes with a day of senior games. The Agency on Aging and Disability Services is a member of Dementia Friendly America and has played a vital role in Dementia Friendly Lawrence County.

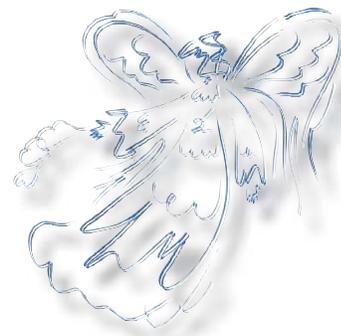
Area XV gives a high priority to bridging the gaps where funds are not available. One such program is Aging Special Services. When funds are available, the program can assist with paying for medications, equipment, rent and other items. The division also has a video library with several videos to loan on health, family caregiving and general information.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors help with Medicare Part D plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, and Medicare Fraud. These counselors also help consumers apply for the Extra Help Program, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) and any other concerns they have with their Medicare. They are on-site, so they are able to take walk-ins, set up appointments and make home visits.

Knowing not all needs of the elderly and disabled are met by services provided by our agency, there are a series of Community Service Guides for Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington Counties. These are also available on our website: www.hoosieruplands.org.

One of the goals most of the services provide is to assist individuals to remain as independent as possible in their home environment. There are times individuals require 24 hour care in a nursing facility. The Pre-Admission Screening Program is a federally mandated program that assists families in determining whether or not nursing home placement is appropriate, and if necessary, helps with facilitating the placement. We also work with area nursing facilities & hospitals to coordinate care transition from a facility to the person's home.

The Angel Foundation program is in its 17th year. The goal is to grant wishes to terminally ill clients who are 18 years or over and have a projected life span of one year or less.



Shawn Williams
Director of Aging and Disability Services

AgrAbility

The AgrAbility program enables a high quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, other agricultural workers, and their families affected by disability. Funded through the USDA, it is managed by Purdue University with Hoosier Uplands contracted to serve southern Indiana. In 2019, the National Training was held in Nebraska with Hoosier Uplands serving as part of the planning team. Hoosier Uplands responsibilities include working with Purdue Extension, Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, Future Farmers Administration (FFA) Chapters, rehabilitation facilities, clients, and others as needed. AgrAbility's mission is to enhance and protect quality of life and preserve livelihoods.

IndianaAgVets

Hoosier Uplands began a new program in August. The Indiana AgVets Certification and Internship Program is an agricultural career training opportunity specifically for U.S. military veterans. The program prepares participants for rewarding careers in production agriculture or agribusiness by providing specialized training (free of charge) tailored to the veteran's personal interests. This project is in cooperation with the National AgrAbility Project at Purdue University. It is supported by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's National Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

South Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

The South Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) through Hoosier Uplands served a total of 12 counties in south central Indiana during 2019. AHEC's assist in the training of health professionals, recruit students into health professions careers, provide continuing education for health professionals, especially for providers in underserved communities and respond to emerging health issues. A total of eight mini-grants were funded which provided opportunities for health professionals and students to take part in continuing education programs and community based events in the service area. A total of 48 students were exposed to health careers through summer camps sponsored by AHEC and IU Health Bedford and Schneck Memorial Hospital. Over 325 health professionals received continuing education credits through AHEC sponsored programs.

Health career information was provided to over 550 middle and high school students with a variety of programs. The programs inform students about health careers and encourage students to seek careers as health professionals.

The Health Care Professional's Training Program places health professions students in rural and underserved sites to increase the number of providers there and to improve the health of the underserved population. One new site was developed in 2019 that trains family medicine students, physician assistant, nursing students, respiratory care, pharmacy, physical therapy and occupational therapy students.

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission (TPCC)

Daviess, Knox and Lawrence counties have Tobacco Prevention and Cessation grants through the Indiana State Department of Health. The hard work of the coalitions and program coordinators has resulted in additional businesses, healthcare providers, school districts,

and service organizations instituting tobacco-free and cessation systems policies, as well as increased awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke and other tobacco products like e-cigarettes.

Coalitions in Daviess, Knox and Lawrence counties continued to build coalition support for comprehensive smoke-free air ordinances that would protect more workers from secondhand smoke in workplaces and public places. They also educated community leaders and members about smoke-free home policies in low-income and public multi-unit housing. The Daviess County Coalition is working with the Washington Housing Authority to strengthen their current smoke-free policy to include e-cigarettes.

Outreach was conducted with health care clinics, businesses, organizations, public housing administrators, and educational institutions in order to increase coalition partnerships, tobacco cessation, comprehensive policies, and the use of Quitline services throughout the Daviess, Knox, and Lawrence County area. The Daviess County Coalition reaches out to: 43 Preferred Referral Network providers and organizations as well as 47 active coalition members and partners. The Daviess County Coalition has been working to address the vaping epidemic among our youth by speaking to local middle and high school students at all public schools as well as students at Shoals Middle School. The coalition has also provided educational resources to those that work with youth including coaches and school administrators. The Daviess County Coalition has worked to build grassroots support for local smoke-free air laws by educating our Mayor-elect and newly elected city council members. The Knox County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition reaches out to: 48 Preferred Referral Network members and 33 coalition members/partners. The coalition has been working to reach out to local schools to provide resources and education to help address the vaping epidemic among youth. Breathe Easy Vincennes (local smoke-free air effort) has over 450 supporters who have signed a petition or smoke-free air supporter card. Breathe Easy Vincennes committee members have been working to educate locally elected officials on the need for stronger smoke-free air protections for workers and community members in Vincennes. The Knox County Coalition continues outreach efforts to Vincennes University to promote cessation and a tobacco-free campus policy. The Breathe Easy Lawrence County coalition reached out to: 47 Preferred Network members, 57 coalition members and 1,026 Smoke-Free Bedford supporters who signed a petition and/or sent postcards to elected officials.

Lawrence County also has a youth-led movement dedicated to exposing the tobacco industry and empowering Hoosier teens to fight back against their deceptive marketing practices. Lawrence County's teens participated in many events such as: Kick Butts Day; World No Tobacco Day; Safe Night; Great American Smoke Out; and hosting school assemblies to encourage their peers to stay away from tobacco. The Daviess County Coalition has organized events for Kick Butts Day and the Great American Smoke Out with the local hospital to educate community members on the harms of tobacco, e-cigarettes, and secondhand smoke.

Daviess and Knox County worked collaboratively to conduct an introductory training on the new Breathe: Healthy Steps to Living Tobacco Free program to the Head Start staff who serve their counties.

Each of these coalitions had an active presence during community events such as the 4-H fair, community festivals, and health fairs. The coalitions use these opportunities to reach out to the community in an effort to educate citizens about the Indiana Tobacco Quitline and gain their support for tobacco free policies.

Michael Edwards

Director of Aging, Health, and Education



Head Start

In January of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared The War on Poverty in his State of the Union speech. Part of the government's thinking on poverty was influenced by new research on the effects of poverty, as well as on the impacts of education. This research indicated an obligation to help disadvantaged groups, compensating for inequality in social or economic conditions.

Shortly after President Johnson's 1964 State of the Union speech, Sargent Shriver took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children.

Project Head Start, launched as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965, was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

Hoosier Uplands provides Head Start services in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington counties with centers in Bedford, Mitchell, Paoli, Salem and Loogootee. During funding year 2018-2019, Head Start provided services to 262 children from 249 families. The Hoosier Uplands Head Start program was fully enrolled at 100% (221 children) each month of the school year from August through May.

It is estimated that there are approximately 695 children ages birth to five residing in the four county service area that are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. Hoosier Uplands Head Start and Early Head Start served a total of 373 children or 53.53% of those eligible.

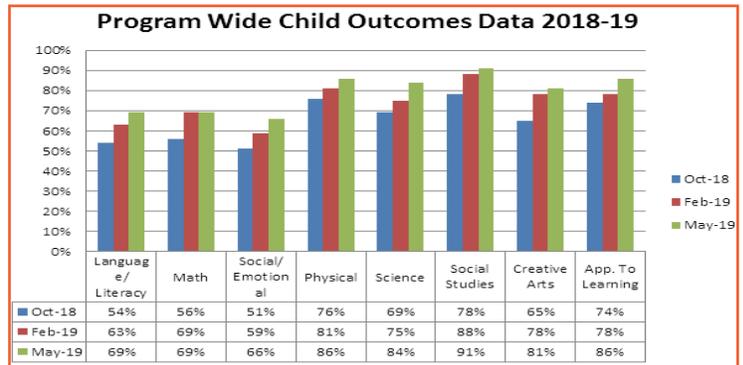
Funding for Head Start is provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The funding year for Hoosier Uplands' Head Start grant begins on May 1 and runs through April 30 each year. For the 2018-2019 program year that began on May 1, 2018, Hoosier Uplands received \$2,304,413 to provide Head Start services to 221 children and families, and \$28,147 for training and technical assistance for staff as well as \$59,915 in additional funding to provide a Cost of Living Allowance for currently employed staff and \$236 was added to the training and technical assistance budget. Total Head Start funding for the 2018-2019 program year was \$2,392,711. The program must generate a local match for the Head Start grant in the amount of \$598,178. All federal funds received during the program period were fully expended.

Realizing that children must be healthy in order to learn, staff expends a great deal of effort ensuring each child receives a physical, dental and vision examination each year. For the 2018-2019 program year, 244 of those enrolled (93.13%) were up to date on all requirements of Indiana's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for their age. Through their routine screenings, 38 were found to have vision problems and 11 had hearing problems. There were 246 children (93.90%) who received a professional dental examination during the school year. Of the total enrolled, 52 (19.85%) had an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

One critical measure of success for a Head Start program is child outcomes in multiple areas of development. Hoosier Uplands Head Start uses the Frog Street Pre-K curriculum and AIM observational assessment. This curriculum is a high quality, research-based curriculum organized into ten skills domains that support integration of curriculum and builds connections between and among all disciplines. The Frog Street AIM (Assess, Instruct, Monitor) assessment system is a birth to five progression that encompasses 60 learning progression indicators that are classified into four developmental domains: • Social Foundations • Language & Literacy • Cognition (Math, Science, Social Studies) • Perceptual, Physical, and Motor Development. AIM is aligned to state and national program standards, including Head Start Early Learning

Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) and Family and Child Outcomes for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education. Child outcomes for 2018-2019 are shown in the table below.

Parent engagement in the child's education is critical for the child to be successful. Each month Head Start offers Family Fun Nights that provide multiple opportunities for parents and children to experience activities that will enhance knowledge and increase skills.



Early Head Start

The Early Head Start program was designed in 1994 by an Advisory Committee on Services for Families with Infants and Toddlers formed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services based on years of research regarding early brain development. The mission of Early Head Start is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote nurturing relationships.

In 1999, Hoosier Uplands received the funding necessary to broaden the scope of their early childhood services to include Early Head Start. At that time the agency was one of only 14 providers of Early Head Start services in the state. Today there are Early Head Start programs in 53 of Indiana's 92 counties.

Funding for Early Head Start is also provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the grant begins on May 1 and runs through April 30 each year. For the 2018-2019 program year that began on May 1, 2018 Hoosier Uplands received \$757,642 to provide Early Head Start services to 66 infants, toddlers and pregnant women, as well as \$19,699 to provide Cost of Living Allowances for staff, and \$18,186 for training and technical assistance for staff for a grand total of \$795,527. Early Head Start must generate a local match for the federal dollars in the amount of \$198,882. All federal funds received for the Early Head Start program were fully expended during the project period.

During program year 2018-2019, Early Head Start staff:

- Provided home-based services to 121 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.
- Served 31 children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Administered 93 Deveraux Early Childhood Assessments to enrolled children.
- Completed 195 Ages and Stages Questionnaires to determine developmental progress.
- Completed 27 Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale screenings.
- Provided 110 hearing screenings, 89 vision screenings, and 144 nutrition screenings.
- Provided two socialization activities per month for parents and children with each activity having a theme and coordinating activities.

Since Early Head Start services are provided through the home-based model, clients receive services year-round. The Early Head Start program was fully enrolled (66 infants, toddlers and pregnant women) each month of the operating period.

Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to the success of both the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. During program year 2018-2019, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs logged 46,065 hours of volunteer time provided by 818 volunteers valued at \$838,396.

USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program

Hoosier Uplands continued to serve as a sponsor for the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program administered through the Indiana Department of Education during 2019. The program operates on an October 1st through September 30th fiscal year, and provides reimbursement for meals and snacks served to children enrolled in the agency's Head Start and after school programs.

During calendar year 2019, a total of 121,434 reimbursable meals and snacks were served to an average of 507 children per month during the school year. Reimbursement received during 2019 totaled \$216,895.73, an increase of \$23,059.40 from 2018.

Debbie Beeler
Director of Children's Services

Information Technology Services

In 2019, IT Services did numerous migrations and upgrades on the data systems at Hoosier Uplands. The largest of them involved upgrading the operating systems of all the computers and servers to new Microsoft operating systems on both servers and workstations. This was due from Microsoft end of life date of 1/15/2020 on Windows 7 and Server 2008. All of the main Hoosier Uplands servers had been replaced; a new email system was implemented as well as the application servers from various departments.

We also expanded our WAN to include the Serenity Now Clinic in Bedford. IT Services in conjunction with Smithville Communications is in the first phase of implementing an agency wide network topology. The main & aging buildings along with the Serenity Now location have been connected via fiber optics through the internet at an increased bandwidth. We also helped in the implementation of Google office suite in several departments at Hoosier Uplands.

IT Services also implemented a new inventory application along with a maintenance log of all units in the agency. IT Services also migrated several departments from server based programs to cloud based applications that were required by the state.

In all, IT Services has 280 computers (both desktop and laptop), eight servers (consolidated from 10 servers) and numerous devices on the network itself.

Hoosier Uplands also continued the inter agency service agreements with both the City of Bedford and Paoli Community Schools.

At Paoli Community Schools, IT services started phase one of two this year with the transition to Windows 10 with the plan to finish the second phase starting in the summer 2020 to complete some of

the student older classroom devices, the school purchased 85 new Windows 10 desktop and laptops. IT services helped setup and configure those devices.

IT also upgraded 140 computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10. The school corporation decided to go with a new student management system, IT services assisted in exporting data from old student system, as well as configuring a new server for the new program. With this new program, IT services was able to help automate data exports for programs such as their lunch program, attendance calling, science software, data warehouse, and Clever which allows students to single sign on many websites and applications.



IT services collected and submitted over the year approximately 27 different state and federal reports including the Federal Civil Rights Data Collection and Indiana School Tech Plan, some of those are weekly and monthly for the school corporation. IT submitted E-Rate forms for discounted internet and Wi-Fi services that saved the school around \$31,392. IT services continued to help with the daily troubleshooting and repair of computer equipment including chromebooks and network issues that arise throughout the school year.



At the City of Bedford, IT services also started this year with the transition to Windows 10 with the plan to finish the second phase starting in the Spring 2020. The city purchased 80 new units to replace older units that could not be migrated to Windows 10. IT also upgrade 110 computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10.

Several of the Microsoft Servers were also migrated to the Server 2016. IT Services in conjunction with various City IT vendors will be migrating all 190 units to Office/Exchange 365 cloud based email and office suite application. The City of Bedford has allocated \$20,000/yr for this project as well as startup costs of \$80,000 for new equipment needs.

IT Services implemented a new server and application software for TASC. All busses will be connected to this software via Apple iPads for GPS tracking, scheduling and dispatch. Along with this, IT Services also started to implement migration of 8 police patrol car tablets to the new guardian system.

In 2020, IT services in conjunction with the state emergency management agency, assisted in the upgrade of the city's enhanced 911 system which included an updated tornado warning system.

Andrew Wolber
Director of Information Technology Services

Alan Rutherford
Assistant Director of IT Services



Community Services

The Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant is a federally funded block grant offered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The LIHEAP Block Grant funds individual states to assist low-income families with the high cost of their home energy. Since July 1, 2006, the block grant has been administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA). Throughout Indiana and locally, the program is known as The Energy Assistance Program (EAP). The Hoosier Uplands Energy Assistance Program serves low-income households subject to an energy burden with outreach offices in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington Counties to respond promptly to eligible households with a heating emergency. An income based program, an energy assistance benefit can off-set the high cost of energy for households at or below 60% of the State Median income level. Hoosier Uplands received \$2,415,376.38 to administer the program in 2018-2019.

- 3,495 Households served
- 1,664 Elderly served
- 1,058 Disabled served
- 6,668 Household members served

The Indiana Home Energy Assistance Program, commonly referred to as "State EAP" is a program through the Attorney General's Office that provided 1,473 homeowners with a \$100.00 benefit towards their heating source as a result of the multi-state mortgage settlement. The 2018-2019 program was funded at \$170,844.20.

Energy Assistance administered the Duke Helping Hand Program for Duke Energy in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington counties. Hoosier Uplands received \$46,800.00 for the 2018-2019 program year. Duke Energy customers approved for energy assistance were eligible to receive a benefit of \$100.00- \$300.00 toward their electric service.

Department staff in our Bedford & Salem offices also assisted Jackson County REMC in administering their Share-A-Watt Program. Elderly or disabled customers received a \$50.00 electric credit through this program as long as funding allowed.



The Energy Assistance team surrounded Carol Baker, Martin County Outreach Office Manager as she celebrated the Open House of the new Martin County Office in Shoals. Pictured behind Carol are (L-R) Robin Grissom, Becky Ashley, Amanda Wolf and Angela Walls.

Robin Grissom
Director of Energy Assistance

Weatherization

Hoosier Uplands continue' s to contract with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) to provide energy conservation measures to reduce the utility bills of low income residents of Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington counties. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Low Income

Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) allocate funding to Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) for distribution to a network of local Community Action Agencies to perform weatherization services.

Eligible Clients receive a comprehensive energy audit unique to each client's home to determine which energy efficiency upgrades will maximize energy savings for the client. Because the work completed on the client's home is funded through the federal government, all audits and energy efficiency upgrades are provided at no cost to the client.

Our 2018-2019 Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization grant contract was funded at \$274,236.00. This grant allowed services to be provided to 30 households at an average cost per home of \$7,000.00 with a \$1,315.00 budget per home for Health and Safety.

Our Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant for 2018-1019 was funded at \$262,274.00. We were able to weatherize 16 homes under the capital intensive section of this grant with a total average cost per home of \$11,500.00. In the mechanical section of the grant, we were able to do repairs or replace 21 heating systems at an average cost per home of \$4,500.00.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) also provided additional funding through a State LIHEAP grant in the amount of \$68,207.00 and these funds paid for 18 additional households. Each sub-grantee had the discretion to allocate 0-100% of their award to the deferral/healthy homes program. This funding helped resolve deferral issues, which may arise during the inspection of the home. That will allow the residence to be weatherized after the deferral issue has been resolved. It's been reported that State LIHEAP will end in 2020. IHCDA is looking for other options for deferral money. Deferral money has seemed to have become an important factor in Weatherization. Without it we would be walking away from a lot of homes/clients. The majority of our clients cannot afford to repair those types of issue, so we may never return to assist them. In 2019 Indiana Community Action Association (ICAA) provided additional funding through Vectren Share the Warmth Program. Hoosier Uplands received \$29,506.00 of that funding which helped weatherize 12 households.



Duke Energy also contributed funding to agency's that are located within their service areas. This funding is distributed through Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA). Hoosier Uplands received \$17,294.92 in which we utilized for deferral and health and safety issues.

This was the sixth year of Hoosier Uplands Local Weatherization Initiative. The primary focus of this funding is to overcome obstacles which do not allow us to provide weatherization services or correct issues discovered during the weatherization process which Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) considers an unallowable measure of cost. During 2019, five households received assistance with the program cost of \$13,970.98.

All Weatherization staff and contractors who audit or work within our client's homes must complete a certification and continuing education requirement which assures that qualified people are working within these homes.

JR Robling
Director of Weatherization

Baby & Me: Tobacco Free- Orange County

The Baby & Me: Tobacco Free (BMTF) program at Hoosier Uplands began in July of 2015 as a result of a grant from the Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health and serves Crawford, Harrison, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. In 2019, the program was extended for another year and is now staffing a full-time person instead of a half-time staff member. The 2019 grant also allowed the expansion of the program into Harrison County. The BMTF program is an evidence-based, national program, designed to encourage and assist pregnant women and their families to stop using tobacco products. The program coordinator meets with pregnant mothers and a qualifying partner four times throughout the pregnancy to provide cessation counseling. For each tobacco-free, post-delivery month, for up to a year, the mother and partner each receive a voucher for \$25 worth of diapers and wipes as an incentive to remain tobacco-free. Two vouchers are also available for parents who are tobacco-free prior to delivery. WIC clinics in the service counties are the primary referrals for program participants.

Since the program began in 2015, a total of 327 referrals have been received with 73 of them from 2019. There were a total of 43 active participants in 2019 who met with the program coordinator for at least the initial session. A total of 27 mothers have completed the entire program since 2015 and received all 14 vouchers. Nine of these parents finished the program in 2019.

Martin County Health Department

The Martin County Health Department performs various functions. These include, but are not limited to: maintaining and retrieving vital health information; reviewing and approving septic system installations; sanitary engineering functions; following-up on public health complaints; recording animal bites and communicable diseases; performing lead screenings and immunizations for adults and children; conducting food inspections, and serving as a resource for health information in the community. Funding for the Martin County Health Department include county funding, Indiana State Department of Health Local Health Maintenance funding, and Indiana Local Health Department Trust Account funding.

During 2019, 458 birth and death certificates were issued, one home birth was recorded and 64 home deaths were recorded. A total of 15 genealogy reports were issued to the public. There were 15 residential sewage disposal system applications and 25 soil reports received in 2019. A total of 17 septic installations were completed. There were 54 contractor/homeowner meetings attended for various environmental related issues. There were 53 food establishments inspected. During weekly clinics and special events, 795 patients were immunized. These patients received a total of 1,345 injections. The Health Department also provided 16 free blood pressure screenings. The Health Department and WIC office also did a total of 41 free lead screening tests for children.

In 2019, the Martin County Health Department moved locations after approximately 20 years. The office moved a block down the road to a much larger space. The new location has two single offices, a large waiting area, a large designated immunization area, a work space, an extra office, and a conference/lunch room. The extra office is used for confidential client consultations and is also used once per week by PACE Community Action Agency for their Covering Kids and Families health navigator. This partnership has been tremendous and any time an EAP, WIC, or Health Department clients come through without insurance, they are automatically referred to the health navigator to help them obtain insurance.

Martin County WIC Department

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a program that provides nutrition and health education, breastfeeding support, referrals to health and social services, and a debit card to purchase healthy foods free of charge to Indiana families who qualify. WIC nutrition staff meet with each WIC participant to review nutrition and health behaviors, provide individual nutrition advice, support families making changes for better health, and offer a selection of healthy foods.

In 2019, the Martin WIC monthly average caseload was 237. There were 279 WIC certifications completed as well as 77 hemoglobin screens and 69 lead screens. WIC made over 250 referrals to other service agencies and programs including: Healthy Families, Head Start, Early Head Start, the Perinatal Navigator Program, PACE Covering Kids and Families, First Steps and the Baby & Me Tobacco Free program.

CSBG Innovative - Recovery House

In 2018, Hoosier Uplands was awarded CSBG discretionary funding from IHCDA to work with local community partners and create a home for men who have been incarcerated and are coming out of jail without safe or sober housing. In late June of 2019, after much planning and preparation, the project began renovations to a home in Lawrence County in order to make it suitable as a Recovery House. The home was completed in October of 2019 and in December of 2019, passed all necessary state approvals to begin housing clients. The first clients will move into the home in January of 2020. Centerstone will manage the house and clients, and the Lawrence County Drug Treatment Center board has leased the house and will provide support to Centerstone to help meet the needs of the clients. Clients will be required to hold a job, attend regular meetings, have a care plan with Centerstone, and maintain house responsibilities as a stipulation of living in the home. The home will house 6 men at a time with the average stay being between six and nine months in length.

Safe Night

Safe Night is an evening promoting the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It also encourages non-violence among youth in our community along with overall healthy living. The 2019 event had long time favorites such as airbrush, face painting, t-shirt tie-dyeing, inflatable games and obstacle courses, hot dogs and chips, ice cream, snow cones, popcorn, and much, much more. A teen area was set up as well for 2019 to help encourage greater attendance from the teen age group. Many items ranging from badminton sets, bubbles, and sand pails to tickets to see the Cincinnati Reds were given away in the raffle drawing. The 2019 event was attended by more than 3,000 community members and approximately 47 organizations participated in the event. Donations, grants, and sponsorships for the 2019 event totaled over \$14,000.



Alyssa Prince
Chief Strategy Officer



Community Development & Improvement Program 2019

The Community Development and Improvement Program (CDIP) was established in 2012 as a locally funded program to provide funding for projects that will enhance or revitalize downtown areas and neighborhoods, eliminate blighted areas, promote economic development/job creation, improve living conditions or community resources, and increase handicap accessibility. The program provides opportunities for Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. In 2019, the Community Development and Improvement Program supported 14 projects, including:

- Choice Life Resource Center - Equipment and furnishings
- City of Mitchell - Sidewalks and Paving
- Grace House - Operations for women's substance abuse recovery program
- Historic Black Church in West Baden - Renovations
- Hoosier Hills PACT - To create an alternative school and Safe Place program in Paoli
- Martin County Humane Society - Shelter improvements
- Mitchell Tri Kappa - New roof on their building
- Shawswick Township Trustee - Home repairs for senior citizens
- Shoals Community Schools - Walking Trail Project
- Shoals Community Schools - Equipment for their agriculture program and shop
- Washington County 4-H - Building improvements
- Washington County Humane Society - Building
- Washington County - Home Repair program
- Youth First - To provide Social Workers in Orleans and Springs Valley schools

Public Safety Improvement Program

The Public Safety Improvement Program (PSIP) was established in 2019 as a locally funded program that provides funding to cities, towns, counties, and non-profit agencies or businesses that are located in Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, or Washington counties. PSIP helps our communities to thrive through funding a variety of public safety programs and projects. In 2019, nine projects were supported through this program, including:

- Crawford County Sheriff's Department - K9 program support
- Huron Volunteer Fire Department - Equipment
- Lawrence County Emergency Management - Purchase of weather radios
- Lawrence County Police Dept - Equipment
- Mitchell Police Department - Purchase of equipment
- Mitchell Fire Department - Purchase of equipment
- Orleans Police Department - Body Armor
- Orange County Sheriff's Department - Establishment of a new K9 program
- Paoli Fire Department - Equipment

David L. Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Community Housing Development

Hoosier Uplands is committed to the provision of safe and affordable housing to low/moderate income households. We have addressed this goal by developing housing in our five county service area of Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties with a total of 438 units.

2019 brought some challenges as during our rehabilitation project at Persimmon Park Apartments we had two major fires. The first one brought about the total loss of two units with major damage to two additional units and minor smoke damage to four others. As we finished the repairs to this building the second major fire brought the loss of eight units. The building was demolished and we have the plans ready to rebuild. The rebuild should start in the beginning of 2020. We are grateful to all the emergency crews who responded to these fires as well as the community and community organizations. We feel very lucky that both times everyone made it out safely and we were able to relocate those tenants immediately.

Our goal is to provide a living environment that is safe, adaptable, comfortable, and affordable, increasing the probability that everyone can remain independent in their home as life circumstances change.

The department works diligently to keep pace with the ever changing funding sources and regulations to meet the needs of their clients. One way we do this is by attending trainings throughout the year and the annual housing conference in Noblesville in October where we receive training on the latest compliance issues, fair housing, tenant landlord law, maintenance, and current drug and pest control issues.

This spring five staff members traveled to Santa Barbara California to attend the Yardi conference learning about the computer software we use to stay in compliance with all the layered funding we commit to on projects. They brought back all the knowledge they learned with handouts and taught the rest of the staff how to use our software to its full ability.

Our Director also attended the Council on Rural Housing Annual meeting in Washington D.C. in June. This is an important meeting as there is opportunity to hear breaking news from Washington, outlook from regulators, the housing markets today, and issues from other housing developers and managers across the country.

Our Director stays involved on a national level by participating on the Council for Affordable Rural Housing and on the state level by staying active in the Affordable Housing Association of Indiana as Vice President. She also continues her education to keep her licensure as an Indiana Real Estate Broker. Our team consists of 12 full time staff and one part time staff to work diligently every day for our clients and organization.

Natalie Powell
Director of Community & Housing Development



Family Services

Hoosier Uplands Budget Counseling Program has offered assistance to hundreds of families over the years. This money management program is a free service that assists persons of any income by offering cost cutting suggestions, developing spending plans and assisting with basic credit information. This program is supported in part by contributions from some area financial institutions.

Hoosier Uplands offers HUD Housing Counseling to residents of Lawrence, Orange, Martin and Washington counties. Housing counseling is a free service that assists individuals with many types of housing issues such as: housing selection, money management, fair housing, mortgage default/delinquency/foreclosure, pre-purchase/pre-rental counseling, loss mitigation and renter assistance. There were 48 families who received housing counseling services in 2019.

Section 8 Housing/Choice Voucher Program

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which is HUD funded, assists low-income tenants with acquiring and paying for a better place to live. All types of rental housing, including single homes, apartments, duplexes, low-rise and mobile homes may qualify for this program. The units must be located in Lawrence (excluding Bedford City limits and a two-mile radius), Orange, Washington, Martin, Daviess, Greene (excluding Linton, Bloomfield and Jasonville city limits), Dubois and Pike counties. A unit does not become part of the HCVP until a certified family requests to reside in the unit, the unit meets the program standards and a contract is written.



Initial applications are taken by staff persons, and placed on a waiting list that is maintained by Hoosier Uplands. When eligibility is completed, the tenant is given a voucher that states Section 8 will be assisting them with a portion of the rent. Eligible tenants will not pay more

than 40% of their adjusted monthly gross income toward rent (including utilities) and the remaining portion is paid directly to the owner by Hoosier Uplands. Once on the program the family must comply with the lease and program requirements. The owner must provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at a reasonable rent. The dwelling must pass the housing standards of the program and be maintained to those standards as long as the owner receives housing assistance payments. During 2019, the waiting lists were opened for 2 days in each of the following counties: Daviess, Dubois, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Pike and Washington counties. Hoosier Uplands ended 2019 with 389 active Section 8 participants. Changes made this year by Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority have lowered the number of new admissions we are able to process. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program disbursed \$1,542,417 to property owners of the eight counties that we serve in 2019. Tenants received \$74,737 for utility reimbursements in 2019.

Amy Hopper
Director of Housing and Family Services

Hoosier Uplands Scholarship Program

The Hoosier Uplands Scholarship Program was initiated in 1993 by the Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors to promote post-secondary education in the social services, health, and education fields and to be awarded to students who exhibit a financial need. It is offered to one graduating senior from each high school in the five county area we serve. Those counties are Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington.

The selection of each student is made by each school's scholarship committee which consists of school staff, or the school's community foundation which is business men or women within the community.

Applications are available from the high school guidance counselors and must be returned to them by their given deadlines.

As of Fall 2019, Hoosier Uplands presented 231 graduating students with scholarship awards amounting to \$317,250.00. To date, the amount of the scholarship is \$1,400 per student.

2019 marked the 27th year of the Hoosier Uplands Scholarship program.

2019 Hoosier Uplands Scholarship Winners



1st Row: Yariah Stewart-Eastern High School, Ashton Drury-Paoli High School, Sarah Bussinger-Loogootee High School, Hattie Moffitt-Springs Valley High School, and Hattie Griffiths-West Washington High School. 2nd: Rebecca McKinley-Salem High School, Autumn Kerce-Crawford County High School, Sydnee Moon-Orleans High School, and Gracie Haas-Mitchell High School. Not pictured: Kennedy Baker-Bedford North Lawrence High School and Melanie Hawkins-Shoals High School

Ginger Knight

*Director of Administrative Services/
Coordinator of Scholarship Program*





Governor Holcomb honors Lawrence Co. businesses

Hoosier Uplands gifts \$25,000 to GR

Hoosier Uplands recently awarded Giving Recognition Everyday (GRACE) a grant of \$25,000. The grant is the second GRACE has received from Ho Uplands, having previously received \$35,000. Al Bill Mitchell and his wife, Sharon, center, who are members of the Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors as well as GRACE, present the \$25,000 check. GRACE chair Nancy Radcliff, At a GRACE community meeting last week, plans were discussed regarding former First Savings Bank building at Milltown TFSB recently donated to GRACE. "Once again, we're calling on our community of volunteers to help in this project," Bill Mitchell said. "The past year and a half have brought amazing changes to our area." In addition, GRACE is looking at the mentor program in the Crawford County Jail. "We continue to have mentors going into the jail, but a number of inmates, both male and female, desire to have a mentor," Mitchell said. For more information or to stay up to date with GRACE, visit the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GracehouseIN/ or its website at www.gracehousein.org.

Hoosier Uplands gifts \$25,000 to GR

Indianaapolis — Hoosier Hills Credit Union and Hoosier Uplands were among 65 Indiana companies and organizations honored during an event at the Indiana Statehouse Thursday.

Gov. Eric Holcomb presented the Governor's Award for Small Business Awards in recognition of each company's longevity and service to its employees, community and the state.

"Today we honor businesses that have helped lay a foundation for economic success in Indiana, maintaining operations for more than 100 years and creating long-term career opportunities for Hoosiers," Holcomb said. "Through a strong partnership with our employees, we

praised to have been a vital part of our communities for 50 years," said HHCU CEO George McNichols. "We're celebrating our anniversary this year, and appreciate Governor Holcomb recognizing the contribution we have made to Indiana's economic future."

Hoosier Uplands, founded as a nonprofit providing community action agency in 1968, is a nonprofit providing comprehensive services such as housing and energy assistance, health and education-related programs and counseling to poor, elderly and disabled Hoosiers in southeast Indiana. Hoosier Uplands has been in operation for 53 years.

Opera House ready for talent showcase

10 performers to be featured in first show

Those contestants who will be featured in Friday's show are as follows:

- Singer Holly Kinser of Bloomington. She is 15 years old and has been singing since she was 2.
- Barbara Spencer of Bedford will play the piano. She is 86 years young and graduated from Purdue University in 1955.
- Seymour's Miranda Schulteis has spent her life singing, mostly in the shower or car, but also in local talent shows, school choir concerts, musicals and state competitions.
- Haley Chase of Bedford will dance. She is 16 and has been dancing since she was 3. Dance is her passion, and she hopes to be dancing for years to come.
- Bloomington's Scott Bender will sing his original music. He started playing guitar as a teenager for friends and co-workers at the end of a work day on many construction job sites. When his younger brother lost his battle with cancer a few years ago, writing original music helped him through the loss. That's when he wrote this five song "Brother's Keeper."
- Karston Brim of Guthrie will sing and play the guitar. He is 15 years old and began playing drums at 5 years old and got his first guitar at the age of 12 or at the door the night of the show.

The remaining Hoosier Uplands' shows are ministry, Rein Ministries. The cost to attend Friday's showcase is \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.mitchelloperahouse.com or at the door the night of the show.



The historic Mitchell Opera House will be the site of the first-ever Live Talent Show night. (Rich Janzarak / Times-Mail)

Mitchell Opera House ready for upcoming a

Grand prize winner to receive \$1,000

By KRISTAL SHELTER
kshelter@timesmail.com

Mitchell — After four years of operation, promoters of the Mitchell Opera House are learning "local" is the secret to filling the historic venue.

"We have been looking for ways to bring more local into the Opera House," said Miller, CEO of Hoosier Uplands, the organization that rents and now oversees the operation of the venue.

That's because local acts, such as the first-ever Hoosier Uplands Talent Showcase, member and the Hoosier town Live radio show, have out the 352-seat Opera House

SHOWCASE

by 5 p.m. March 4 and will be notified of their acceptance to the showcase by 5 p.m. March 11. Applications can be submitted online at <https://form.jotform.com/8345549319163>.

The Opera House was built from 1904 to 1906. Although its purpose has changed throughout the years, starting out as a county hall and morphing into a concert venue, in the more recent decades, it has served as a concert hall. The city of Mitchell gifted the deteriorating building to Hoosier Uplands in late 2014. Hoosier Uplands then set out to renovate the building, opening it to the public on July 4, 2015.

Contact Times-Mail Staff Writer Kristal Shelter at (317) 277-7264 or by kshelter@timesmail.com. Show forms

Safe Night coming up June 8

Safe Night will be held from 6-10 p.m. June 8 at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds.

The event is an annual substance abuse prevention event aimed at encouraging healthy living. This year's event will include longtime favorites such as airbrush face-painting, T-shirt tie-dye, inflatable games and obstacle courses, fireworks and free hot dogs, chips, ice cream, snow cones and popcorn. All activities and food are free.

New this year will be a teen area, which will include life-size Jenga, teen inflatables and coin hole games.

The platinum sponsors for the event are Lawrence County and the Lawrence County Jail.

Contestants wanted for talent competition

Contestants wanted for talent competition

Hoosier Uplands is seeking contestants for its first-ever talent showcase. The showcase will be held on Friday, July 11, at the Mitchell Opera House in Bedford, Indiana. The showcase will feature 10 performers, including a singer, a pianist, a dancer, and a young girl who has been singing since she was 2. The showcase is open to all ages and will be held from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased in advance at www.mitchelloperahouse.com or at the door the night of the show.

Spencer wows judges with talent

Spencer wows judges with talent

Barbara Spencer, 16, of Bedford, Indiana, won the grand prize of \$1,000 at the Hoosier Uplands Talent Showcase on Friday, April 11. Spencer performed a contemporary dance routine titled "Head Above Water" and was praised by the judges for her talent and stage presence. She is currently a student at Lawrence High School and plans to continue her dance education at the University of Indianapolis.

Gateway receives \$7,000 donation

Gateway receives \$7,000 donation

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute received a \$7,000 donation from Gateway Academy to fund the school's NCLCS program. The donation will be used to purchase materials and supplies for the program, which is designed to help students with learning disabilities succeed in their education.

Dancer, pianist advance out of talent showcase

Dancer, pianist advance out of talent showcase

Barbara Spencer and Haley Chase advanced out of the talent showcase on Friday, April 11. Spencer performed a contemporary dance routine and Chase performed a piano piece. Both contestants were praised by the judges for their talent and stage presence. Spencer will be performing at the Hoosier Uplands Talent Showcase on July 11, and Chase will be performing at the Hoosier Uplands Talent Showcase on July 11.

Hoosier Uplands awards 11 scholarships

Hoosier Uplands awards 11 scholarships

Hoosier Uplands awarded 11 scholarships to graduating seniors in each of the 11 high schools in the five counties it serves. The scholarship award was for \$1,400 and it went to seniors in Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. The total number of scholarships awarded since 1993 is 231 for a total of \$317,250.

The following are the scholarship winners:

- Grace Haas, Mitchell High School
- Sara Bussinger, Logansport High School
- Melanie Shoals, Hoosier Uplands

Changing Mitchell's downtown

Changing Mitchell's downtown

Nonprofit buys apartment building, tears down houses

By Krystal Shelter
Times-Mail

Mitchell — A nonprofit organization has purchased a historic apartment building in downtown Mitchell, Indiana, and plans to tear down several houses in the area. The organization, Hoosier Uplands, is working to revitalize the downtown area and create a vibrant community. The apartment building, located at the corner of Main and Washington streets, was built in the early 1900s and is a historic landmark. Hoosier Uplands purchased the building in late 2018 and plans to tear down several houses in the area to make way for a new development. The new development will include a mix of residential and commercial space and is expected to be completed in late 2020.

More weather radios for county

More weather radios for county

Lawrence County commissioners are providing a \$10,000 grant to purchase more weather radios for the county. The radios will be distributed to residents in the county and will be used to provide weather alerts and information. The grant was approved by the commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Jeremiah elected to serve as IAHC board president

Jeremiah elected to serve as IAHC board president

Mitchell — Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCH, director of operations for Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care and Hospice, was recently elected to serve as president of the board for the Indiana Association of Home and Hospice Care. Jeremiah has been a member of the association for several years and has been instrumental in the development of the association's programs and services. She will be serving as president of the association for the next year and will be working to advance the cause of home care and hospice through leadership, collaboration, advocacy and education. The association represents home care, hospice, and non-medical inpatient hospital and home health nurses. Jeremiah lives with her husband, David, and has three children.

Contestants wanted for talent showcase

Contestants wanted for talent showcase

Hoosier Uplands is seeking contestants for its first-ever talent showcase. The showcase will be held on Friday, July 11, at the Mitchell Opera House in Bedford, Indiana. The showcase will feature 10 performers, including a singer, a pianist, a dancer, and a young girl who has been singing since she was 2. The showcase is open to all ages and will be held from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased in advance at www.mitchelloperahouse.com or at the door the night of the show.

House wants you amateur showcase

"That's what we want to do more consistently," Miller added. To spur more sell-out crowds this year, the Mitchell Opera House will stage its new Live Talent Showcase, which will be open to amateur performers in Lawrence, Crawford, Greene, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange and Washington counties.

SEE SHOWCASE PAGE A7

Live Talent Showcase

The following are additional details on the Mitchell Opera House Live Talent Showcase.

- Contestants are only eligible to participate in one of the four showcases for the chance to participate in the final showcase.
- No talents that use water are allowed.
- No smoke machines are allowed.
- No flammable liquids or any open flames (candles, etc.) are allowed in the facility.
- No bands are allowed, but choirs and singing groups are welcome.
- Must live in Crawford, Greene, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Lawrence, Orange and Washington counties.
- Contestants must be 12 or older to participate.
- The showcase is for amateurs only.
- Contestants are not allowed to use the Mitchell Opera House Live Talent Showcase kicks off this spring and will continue through the year, playing off the "America's Got Talent" television

Times-Mail Oct. 2, 2019



Lick Creek returning to Opera House

MITCHELL — A local fan favorite, Lick Creek Band will make its return to the Mitchell Opera House March 21. (Courtesy photo)

MITCHELL — The Lick Creek Band will take the stage at the Mitchell Opera House March 21. The band has performed in hundreds of venues throughout Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Lick Creek renders rock, pop, jazz and original music, ranging through rock, jazz and original music.

Tight vocal harmony is the most distinctive feature of the group. The band has performed in hundreds of venues throughout Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Lick Creek renders rock, pop, jazz and original music, ranging through rock, jazz and original music.

Hoosier Uplands offers car seat inspections

BEDFORD — It's important for parents and caregivers to properly choose, install and use car seats when transporting children. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading and increasing cause of death for children younger than 13.



The following are tips to install a child's car seat:

- Be sure to read the car seat's instruction manual and your vehicle's manual.
- Every car seat needs to be installed using the lower anchors or the seat belt to secure the car seat. If you decide to use the seat belt to install, make sure you read how to lock the seat belt in your vehicle manual.
- Information regarding placement/positioning of the car seat can also be found in your vehicle's manual and the car seat's installation manual.
- Car seats should not be able to move side-to-side or front-to-back more than one inch when pulled at the belt path.
- For forward-facing car seats, a tether strap must be connected to the tether anchor. This will help secure your child in the car seat.

If you want to have your child's car seat inspected by a certified technician, Hoosier Uplands is offering appointments and walk-in inspections at the following locations:

- Hoosier Uplands, Mitchell, 812-849-4447.
- Bedford Head Start, 812-275-0052.
- Salem Head Start, 812-883-5368.
- Mitchell Head Start, 812-849-4448.
- Paoli Head Start, 812-723-3687.
- Loogootee Head Start, 812-295-4700.
- Early Head Start, Mitchell, 812-849-5446.

Car seat inspections are offered for free. Support for Hoosier Uplands is provided by the Indiana Department of Transportation.



Mitchell Opera House Live Talent Showcase kicks off this spring and will continue through the year, playing off the "America's Got Talent" television

Teaming up to clean up Mitchell

Project to cost nearly \$200K

LOCAL | HOOSIER UPLANDS

"It is vitally important to support the growth of the Lehigh project," said CEO of the Lawrence County Growth Council, "to improve the aesthetics of our business community. In addition, it will help to improve the quality of life for our residents."

JUNE 18

Senior Day at Orange County Fair July 9

Hoosier Uplands Area XV Agency on Aging is once again hosting the Senior Citizens Day at the Orange County Fair. The day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, at the Orange County Community Building, 1075 N. Sandy Hook Road Paoli. The events will begin at 10 a.m.

The day will include Bingo and other entertainment! Lunch will be provided, BUT you must call in and register before July 5 to receive a lunch.

To call and register for the day, call Hoosier Uplands at 1-800-333-2451 or 1-812-849-4457. Persons with Hearing or Speech Difficulties can feel free to call 1-800-743-3333. Come and join in a fun filled day at the Orange County Fair.

Township trustee gets senior home repair grant

BEDFORD -- The Shannock Township Trustee received a Community Improvement and Development Grant from Hoosier Uplands in the amount of \$4,000 to help assist the township with repairs to their home. Trustees can't assist with their home repairs through township funds.

Applicants must own their home and reside there and be 65 years of age or older with low income. They cannot live in a rental home, and must be in Lawrence County.

This funding is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Free weather radios available to residents

BEDFORD — Free weather radios are now available to Lawrence County residents. Lawrence County Emergency Management received grant funding from Hoosier Uplands and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to purchase the weather radios.

In turn, LCEM has distributed numerous radios to Home Health Care and Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care for distribution to their clients.

The all-hazard weather radios are available to those throughout Lawrence County with an emphasis on those in mobile homes, the home-bound, senior citizens, veterans and those who live below poverty level.

For more information, contact LCEM at 812-277-9680 or clients of the above agencies may contact their caseworkers for information on how to obtain a weather radio.

Barn donation

Hoosier Uplands awarded the Washington County Fair \$25,000 in grant money in November. Accepting the donation are members of the fair board and Hoosier Uplands representatives. Pictured from left to right: Kevin Stewart, treasurer; Jeremy Hardwick, vice president; David Miller, Hoosier Uplands CEO; Seth Patten, past president and leader in the cattle barn project; Ronnie Pennington, vice chair; Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors; and D. Jack Mahoney, Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors.



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Mitchell Opera House To

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Hoosier Uplands Gift supports the social and emotional needs of students in Orange County

MITCHELL — Hoosier Uplands has committed \$20,000 to Youth First, Inc. to strengthen the social, emotional well-being of students in Orange County according to a news release.

Youth First partners with school districts to embed social workers in school buildings, where they become specialized mentors for students and prevention coaches for parents and teachers. Youth First Social Workers build caring relationships, foster readiness for positive change, and

help students overcome barriers to learning and success. Youth First Social Workers build caring relationships, foster readiness for positive change, and help students overcome barriers to learning and success.

Hoosier Uplands Donates \$7,800 To Assist With Construction Of Walking Trail At Shoals School

Hoosier Uplands donated \$7,800 last Friday to the Shoals Community Schools to help the construction of a walking trail. The trail will be used for walking, jogging, and other outdoor activities.

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Hoosier Uplands awards Orleans police grant

Hoosier Uplands recently awarded the Orleans Police Department a grant of \$3,975 for the purchase of a new body armor for the town's officers. Making the presentation of the Tom Marshall Richard Dixon (center) was Dave Miller (far left), executive director of Hoosier Uplands. Also pictured: Tom Clark-Treasurer Robert F. Henderson. (Courtesy photo)

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\$10,000 Grant Awarded To OCS K-9 Program

David L. Miller, chief executive officer of Hoosier Uplands, has announced a Community Development and Improvement Grant in the amount of \$10,000 has been awarded to the Orange County Sheriff's Department K-9 Fund. The department will be presented to Sheriff Josh Babcock and Ryan Smith, deputy K-9 handler, this Thursday morning.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is currently in the process of beginning the department's K-9 program. A trained, multi-purpose police service dog would be able to assist in locating drugs and helping police officers stop the supply and transportation of illegal drugs before they reach our children. A K-9 could also locate lost or missing children and adults and assist in the arrest, or prevent the escape, of serious or violent offenders and track suspects to reduce the risk of injury or death of an officer.

The K-9 program will also be used for informational and educational programs throughout the community to further build and support the relationship between the community and sheriff's department. The community is being asked for its support in assisting in building the program. The start-up cost is currently \$20,000, however, the program must be sustained for the future so that start-up goal is just the beginning of the funding

Yariah Stewart, Rebecca McKinley, Hattie Griffiths, Westington High School

Yariah Stewart, Rebecca McKinley, Hattie Griffiths, Westington High School students will be recognized at a reception before the Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors.

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Students ready for October talent show

Students are preparing for the October talent show. The show will feature a variety of acts and performances.

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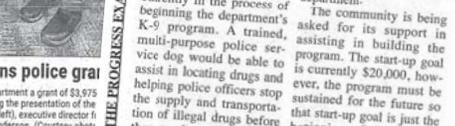
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Home Health Care

"Not All Home Care and Hospice Agencies are Created Equal"



Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice continues to be CHAP accredited. A CHAP accredited organization meets the highest quality standards in the nation.

Melissa remains on the NAHC and IAHHHC Board of Directors. She serves as President of the IAHHHC Board of Directors. She also received her recertification for her CHCE/Certified Home/Hospice Care Executive.



Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice was voted #1 in the Times-Mail Newspapers Reader's Choice Awards as the Best Home Health Services in the readership area! Melissa states, "Congratulations to all of our staff at Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice, as we could not receive this honor year after year without the hard work and dedication of our Excellent, Award Winning Staff!"

Standing-left to right: JoDeana McNabb was recognized for 25 Years of Service and Melissa Jeremiah was recognized for 20 Years of Service.



Standing-left to right: Molly Baker, RN, Clinical Services Supervisor presents Judi Taylor, LPN with the Jennifer Hacker Award



Members of the Hospice Team:



Lee Grimes, Volunteer Coordinator, Lana Allen, LPN, Linda Fisher, RN, Hospice Patient Care Coordinator and Recipient of the Charlotte Braman Award, Dr. Luke Mosemann, Medical Director and Merle Mullins, Volunteer Hospice Chaplain, who was recognized for 20 years of service to Hoosier Uplands Hospice.



Home Health and Hospice Team: *Seated-left to right:* Elly Ramsey, CNA, Summer Archer, HHA, Jamie Dillard, CNA and Karen Cooper, HHA. *Standing-left to right:* Annette Gilliland, RN, South Team Leader, Jackie Carley, LPN, Debbie Fessel, LPN, Judi Taylor, LPN, Mary Ann Knight, CNA, HHA Scheduler, Rhea McClintock, CNA, Hannah Streeval, LPN and Mandy Blevins, CNA

Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice Office Team:



Seated-left to right: Janine Martin, Molly Baker, RN, Clinical Services Supervisor, JoDeana McNabb, Director of Accounting Services, Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE, Director of Operations and Mandi Dersch, RN, Assistant Director.

Standing-left to right: Sarah Miller, Clinical Records Manager, Shawna McDonald, Accounts Processor, Cheryl Boone, Hospice Billing/Accounts Receivable Manager, Lori Williams, Intake Coordinator, Mary Ann Knight, HHA Scheduler, Linda Fisher, RN, Hospice Patient Care Coordinator, Lee Grimes, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator and Vanessa Lumley, LPN, Plan of Care Review Nurse

HOSPICE HOOSIER UPLANDS HOSPICE MITCHELL, IN

HONORS

Congratulations! Your hospice has been named a 2019 Hospice Honors recipient.

Hospice Honors is a landmark compilation of hospices providing the best patient and caregiver experience. This prestigious annual review recognizes hospices that continuously provide the highest level of quality as measured from the caregiver's point of view.

Hospice Honors recipients include those hospices scoring above the HEALTHCAREfirst Performance Score on twenty of the evaluated questions.

Thank you for your commitment and congratulations on being a 2019 Hospice Honors recipient.

You are leading the way!

**J. Kevin Porter, CEO
HEALTHCAREfirst, Inc.**

"The Choice of Hoosier Uplands Families for Generations"

Home Health Care

Home Health staff provided 25,836 skilled care visits to patients. Skilled services are provided by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Home Health Aides, Social Services, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Speech Therapists.

Have you heard what our patients and their loved ones are saying about Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care?

"These ladies have been a blessing. They have helped me with my meds and nebulizer, which keeps me out of the hospital. Thankful for the help because I live alone."

"They took very good care of me, and allowed me to stay in my own home."

"I rate all your help with A PLUS."

"You have very good people working for you."

"The nurses have been very good, compassionate and seem to really care about my comfort. They have responded to my problems quickly and efficiently. Great company!"

"Without the at home care provided to me, I'm almost certain I would have returned to the hospital or a nursing home. I'm very thankful for their services"

"I'm 83 years old, lived with my son and daughter-in-law. If it wasn't for Hoosier Uplands, I would have to go to a nursing home."

Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice were honored to receive weather radios from the Lawrence County EMA.



Pictured: Valerie Luchauer, Lawrence County EMA Director, Melissa Jeremiah, Judi Taylor, Karen Cooper, Marilyn Morana, Beth Frigerio, and Molly Baker

Client Maintenance

The Client Maintenance program provided 4,694 hours of service. Services include Home Health Aide Visits; and Home Health Aide and LPN Respite Care.

Health Care Division

Home Health & Hospice received a contribution from the President of The Edgar & Roberta Mulzer Foundation, Inc.

Hospice received charitable contributions from the Lawrence County Community Foundation Partnership.

Hospice

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Luke Mosemann, Medical Director and Dr. Daniel O'Brien, Physician Designee

Hospice field staff provided support to 77 families. Services are provided by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Hospice Aides, Social Services and other auxiliary services. Hospice also provides spiritual, volunteer, bereavement support and dietary counseling.

Medicare requires Hospice have at least 5% of its patient care/office hours provided by volunteers. Volunteers donated 313 hours, which is 5%, for a savings to Hoosier Uplands Hospice of \$13,764.

Bereavement support is offered up to 12 months following a patient's death to the patients loved ones. This support may include a series of bereavement letters, phone contact, visits, an annual memorial service and other information and referral as requested. There were 50 bereavement families followed.



WE HONOR VETERANS

Hoosier Uplands Hospice is Level four accredited in the "We Honor Veterans" program; meaning we increase access and improve quality of care for Veterans. Hoosier Uplands Hospice is one of only 10 Level four hospices in the state of IN.

Have you heard what our patients and their loved ones are saying about Hoosier Uplands Hospice?

"It's the best care we ever had. Everyone was so nice, as well as professional. We really loved them all."

"They always answered all of our questions about the process. I have told others how good you were and would recommend them for Hospice care."

"I am very thankful for all the help I got with my Mom. She was always smiling when they showed up. It was like they were part of the family. They helped her and me. Thank you so much."

"All of the nurses were excellent. Answered all my questions to where I understood what to do."

Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE
Director of Operations

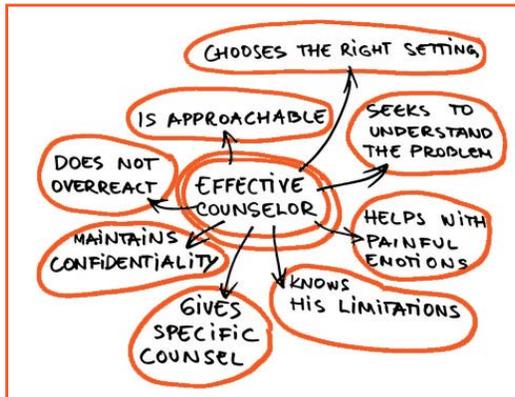
JoDeana McNabb
Director of Accounting Services



Serenity Now Psychiatric & Counseling Clinic

The year 2019 was a busy one at Serenity Now with continued growth and expansion in efforts to better meet the needs of the communities we serve. Our providers completed over 13,300 group and individual visits throughout the year. Of these, 768 were new patient evaluations. Over the past year we have welcomed two new therapists, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, and receptionist to our team.

Terri Klingelhofer, MA, LCSW, joined our practice in January. Terri brought extensive knowledge and experience to our clinic. Terri's experience working with individuals with substance use disorders has been vital for our patients. Unfortunately, addiction does not discriminate based on age and it is affecting even our senior citizens more and more as time goes on. Medicare will only allow patients to receive therapy services from a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Terri has successfully filled that gap in service here at Serenity Now.



With the expansion of staff at our clinic, came the need for more office space. Work began in February to remodel our large conference room to create two new provider offices. The conference room was split in half with the back half becoming the new offices. The offices were completed and ready for new residents in March. The majority of the work was done over the weekends and evenings as to not disrupt patient care during business hours. We were very pleased with the end result and quickly went to work finding the best staff to fill the new vacancies.

Serenity Now has a great reputation for teaching and guiding Master's level interns as they complete their required patient contact hours. We have continued our partnership with Indiana University to provide instruction and supervision for several students each year. Teryn McGlothlin, LMHCA, was one of those students that completed her internship with us. Teryn was hired while still completing her required hours for licensure to work at the front desk. Upon graduation, she was hired as a full-time therapist. Teryn has quickly built up her case load. She has demonstrated the ability to retain patients and keep them engaged in treatment. She has been a great additional to our staff.

John Eckard, MD, continued to provide psychiatric medication management services for LifeSpring Health System, formerly Southern Hills Counseling, via telemedicine. This year he took on added responsibility by providing psychiatric services for more severe and chronically mentally ill patients. This includes psychiatric assessments and testimony for commitment hearings when a patient is unable or unwilling to comply with treatment because of a serious mental illness. This partnership with LifeSpring provides much needed psychiatric services for the underserved communities in Southern Indiana.

Our clinical staff is always looking for ways to improve their skill sets to better meet the needs of those we serve. As part of this, Michael Dockery, LMFT, has embarked on an extensive training regime to become a Certified Forensic Mental Health Evaluator. This fifty hour program will also allow Michael to conduct Level C Psychological testing to evaluate individuals for a multitude of circumstances, including competency to stand trial, determining if an individual is fit for certain career fields, and for diagnostic purposes. Upon completion of this phase, he plans to also complete the additional training hours necessary to become a Certified Child Custody Examiner. This certification is used most often by the court system when determining the best living arrangements for minor children during a divorce.

In April this year, our clinic manager, Nichole Krahenbuhl, BSN, was asked to sit on question and answer panel at a community event hosted by the Lawrence County Public Defender's Office. The event was titled "Voicing Hope: Substance Use and Mental Health Community Awareness". The purpose of this event was to provide education to the public and share information amongst mental health service providers within the community. Nichole also participated at the Mitchell Community Schools parent- teacher conferences by distributing information about the services offered at Serenity Now to teachers, parents, and caregivers that attended the conferences.

Mary Miller, LMHC, and Haley Maranda, LMHC both passed their licensing board examinations to become fully licensed as Licensed Mental Health Counselors. In order to be eligible for full licensure, they had to complete an additional three thousand hours of direct patient contact and two years of post-doctoral experience under the supervision of a fully licensed provider. This licensure now allows them to be credentialed with commercial insurance carriers to provide services for a much larger patient demographic.

Serenity Now's partnership with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers entered its second school year in 2019. Kaitlin Powell, LMHC, continues to provide counseling services for the after school program. She attends the Mitchell and Springs Valley programs on a monthly basis to observe children that might be struggling with a vast assortment of issues including conflict in their home, anxiety, parental substance abuse, etc. These circumstances often cause behavior issues while at school and can negatively affect

Serenity Now Psychiatric & Counseling Clinic



their ability to learn. Kaitlin builds rapport with the children by playing games or coloring with them to help them feel comfortable to talk about issues that are bothering them. Kaitlin attends all six after school sites twice a year to provide education to parents and teachers.

Kaitlin attended a three-day training in Columbus, Indiana to better learn how to provide services for families affected by Reactive Attachment Disorder. The training utilized the Take CHANCES for Kids curriculum. This training has helped Kaitlin in treating children seen at our clinic and with the children that attend the 21st Century after school programs.

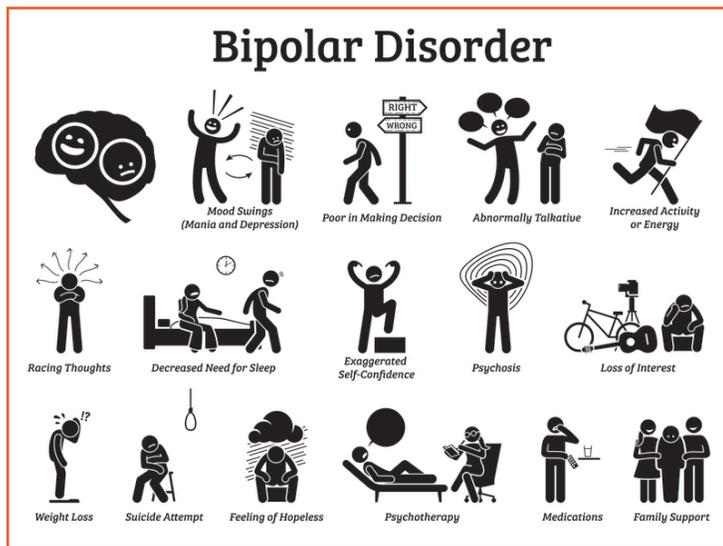
All of our therapists attended the first day of the Annual Brown County Conference hosted by Meadows Bloomington Hospital in Nashville, IN. This training provided the required continuing education credits in ethics needed to maintain licensure. Michael Dockery, LMFT, and Tom Trent, LCSW, attended the second day of the conference, as well. The conference provided education about addictions, gender identity issues, preventing school violence, and updates on several different treatment modalities.

Amanda Lavender, PMHNP, joined our practice in September. Amanda graduated with her Masters of Science in Nursing Leadership and Management from Western Governor's University in 2016. She then went on to obtain her psychiatric nurse practitioner degree from Maryville University St. Louis. Amanda brings 12 plus years of psychiatric nursing experience to our team. She has worked as a psychiatric registered nurse at IU Health Bloomington Hospital and has been an Adjunct Clinical Instructor for the IU School of Nursing program.

In March we renewed our Interagency Referral Agreement with Lawrence County Probation, the ADAPT Program, and Drug Court. We regularly receive referrals for substance abuse assessments and treatment for individuals that have been arrested for any crimes related to substance use. These patients are ordered to comply with treatment recommendations as a term of their probation status. The cooperation between the two agencies allows us to provide the highest quality substance abuse treatment in effort to decrease recidivism rates and provide positive outcomes for our mutual clients.

Looking towards the future, we hope to utilize technology, such as telemedicine services, to expand the number of clients we are able to help. This could be realized through contracts with other agencies or by increasing the number of available appointments here at the clinic. With three medical providers and 10 therapists, we will be able to assist the ever growing numbers of individuals struggling with a behavioral health issue. We are always looking to find ways to break down barriers that keep individuals from accessing mental health care. We would like to encourage the community to help combat the social stigma around seeking treatment for mental health issues.

We hope for these and other opportunities to further strengthen Serenity Now and look forward to continuing to serve the psychiatric needs of the community in 2020.



In addition to our partnership with IU Schools of Social Work and Education to provide an extensive counseling internship experience, we have also added agreements with the IU School of Nursing and the Walden University School of Nursing. Carrie Long, PMHNP, provided supervision for an undergraduate student working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Tom Trent, LCSW, is currently supervising the psychotherapy internship for a doctoral student working towards her psychiatric nurse practitioner degree.

Nita Pettiford joined the Serenity Now clinic in 2019 to fill a much needed position at the front office. The front office position demands someone that can multi-task under pressure and entails a broad scope of duties. Nita has shown to be a fast learner and willing to take on new challenges to improve workflow at the front office.



John Eckard, MD
Clinic Director/Psychiatrist



Strategic Development

Before and After School Services

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Afterschool Programs operated with two grant Cohorts in 2019. Cohort 9 serves children in the Burris, Fayetteville, Hatfield, Springs Valley, and West Washington elementary schools. In 2019, the program served 218 children in grades Kindergarten through 6th. Hoosier Uplands 21st CCLC Afterschool Programs also has Cohort 8 funding, which serves Orleans and Shoals elementary schools. Cohort 8 served 99 students in 2019. The afterschool programs served a total of 317 students in 2019.

The daily schedule includes a healthy snack, such as; fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and whole grain items approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The programs primary focuses are on STEM and literacy. Monday through Thursday, students have 30 minutes of homework or academic enrichment time. Following academic time, students have an hour block of enrichment activities which include: literacy, science, character development, crafts, and service projects. Fridays are considered Fun Fridays because the day is more relaxed where students can play games, get active with the SPARK physical education curriculum activities, listen to a guest speaker, watch a movie, or have a holiday celebration. The goal of the 21st CCLC program is to provide a variety of educational and enrichment activities in a fun learning environment that will lead to better school day academics and classroom behavior.



The SAFER morning program for Burris and Hatfield Elementary schools is a paid program that provides students with before school child care at the Burris site. The program starts at 6:30 a.m. and goes until the beginning of the school day. In 2019, the morning program served 16 student

CHAT (Choices Helping Abstinent Teens)

Hoosier Uplands' CHAT (Choices Helping Abstinent Teens) Program is an eight day educational program that encourages sexual abstinence. The program is funded by the Indiana State Department

of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, along with in-kind from local partners.

The program utilizes the Making a Difference curriculum. The curriculum educates junior high and high school students during health classes in Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Pike, and Washington counties. The CHAT program added programming to special needs classes in Martin and Washington counties in 2019 as well as new programming in Northeast Dubois High School.

The CHAT Program educates students on several topics including: goal setting, changes the body goes through during puberty, risks associated with sexual behavior such as sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy, refusal skills when pressured by partner or peers, and self-esteem.

The following information depicts data retrieved from junior high and high school students who participated in the program and activities. Of students who participated, 92% reported that the program made them realize their choices will make an impact on their life. A total of 611 students were served in 2019.

ECHO

In July of 2019, Hoosier Uplands received notice of funding for a new program called Educating Communities for Healthy Outcomes (ECHO) that is federally funded and passed through our statewide partner, HCET. The ECHO program will use a curriculum called Life Skills that will be delivered by a program coordinator in high school Health classes, over the course of 10 sessions. The curriculum addresses risk and protective factors for teen pregnancy, including substance use, healthy relationships, family communication, emotion regulation, decision-making skills, media influences, and positive health. This project will be a two year program and curriculum implementation will begin in the schools in January 2020.

Opera House

In 2019, The Mitchell Opera House completed its fourth full year of business after being renovated and reopened in July of 2015. The historic venue was built in 1906 and was County Hall when it first opened. In 1908, the building became an Opera House and hosted Vaudeville acts, first run movies and more until 1930 when it closed and became a storage facility for fire trucks and equipment. It became the "Teen Canteen" in the 1950s and City Hall from the 1960s until 1981. At that point, the Hartzell family took the initiative to restore the venue back to an Opera House once again. The venue reopened in 1985 and hosted occasional shows until it closed in 2012.

After the closure in 2012, the Opera House began restoration in the fall of 2014 and 256 days later, re-opened on the 4th of July! The venue has since hosted regular musical performances along with a variety of other events. In 2019, the venue hosted a total of 40 events including: community gatherings, fundraisers, music, movies, rentals and more. The venue also hosted its first year of the Mitchell Opera House Live Talent Showcase series. This event included four preliminary showcases along with a finale event where the top two performers from each of the four preliminary events would compete in the finale for a chance to win the grand prize of \$1,000. The first year was a huge success and had a total of 37 local performers that participated. Major sponsors and contributors of the Opera House in 2019 included: German American Insurance, Hoosier Hills Credit Union, Lawrence County Tourism Commission, Lehigh

Cement Company, New Hope Services, Old National Bank, Strauss Investments and Financial Services, and the Smithville Foundation.

Talent Showcase



First place winner



Second place winner

"Photo Credit: Times Mail"

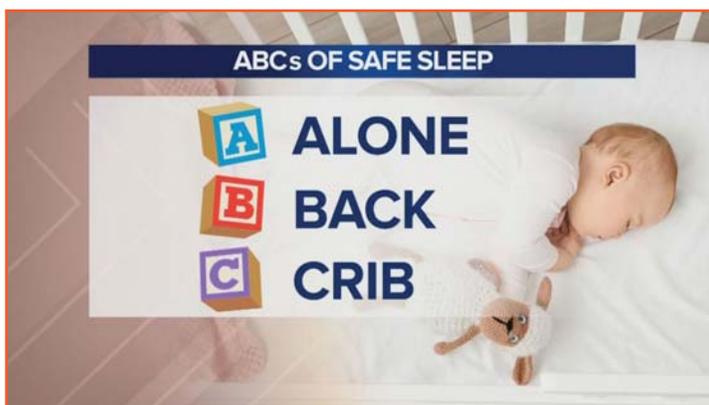
provide replacement car seats when needed free of cost, and teach families and caregivers the proper procedures for installing child safety seats. Site locations for inspections include: Salem Head Start and the main Hoosier Uplands office. Each of these sites provides car seat inspections by appointment for families in need. In 2019, the program distributed a total of 145 car seats to families in need.

Choose the right car seat.

One size doesn't fit all.

Safe Sleep

In 2016, Hoosier Uplands began implementing the Indiana Safe Sleep Program in Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. The Indiana State Department of Health, in partnership with the Cribs for Kids National Infant Safe Sleep Initiative, implements a statewide program that provides education and infant survival kits to infant caregivers and families. The survival kits contain one infant portable crib, fitted sheet with imprinted safe sleep messaging, a wearable blanket, a pacifier, and safe sleep recommendations for those in need and at risk. Caregivers who do not have a safe place for their child to sleep and are unable to purchase a crib themselves are eligible for the program. In 2019, Hoosier Uplands distributed 47 cribs to local families in need of a safe place for their child to sleep.



Child Restraint Distribution Grant

In November of 2017, Hoosier Uplands had eight employees complete the Child Passenger Safety certification. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute then awarded Hoosier Uplands a car seat safety grant to serve the families and/or youth caregivers of Lawrence, Orange, Martin, and Washington counties in December of 2017. This allows Hoosier Uplands to educate families and caregivers,

STAR Program/SERVE

Hoosier Uplands' STAR (Strong Teens Acting Responsibly) Program is an abstinence based educational program that includes nine lessons/modules. The program is offered to Junior High/Middle School students in health classes in Daviess, Dubois, Jackson, and Martin counties. The program is federally funded and contracted through a partnership with Health Care Education & Training (HCET). The program utilizes the Making a Difference curriculum, which provides students with information regarding sexual health and risks and tools to help them make healthy decisions. The STAR Program encourages students to practice abstinence in order to prevent teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and other risky behaviors. The program also educates students on refusal skills when presented with sexual pressure from partners and peers, what a safe and healthy relationship should entail, and provides an activity centered on substance abuse prevention.

The primary goals of the STAR Program include: assist students in identifying future goals and dreams, make students aware of possible risks that could be detrimental to future goals, increase students refusal and negotiation skills, increase student awareness of how substance use could affect sexual behavior, and increase students' knowledge regarding abstinence as the best method. A total of 983 students were served by the STAR program in 2019 with 689 of the students participating 100% of the program.

In October of 2019, the funding for the STAR program ended. HCET provided Hoosier Uplands with another funding source to continue implementing the same curriculum but without the 9th substance abuse prevention module. The new program is called SERVE and is funded through state TANF money that is passed through HCET. A total of 291 students were served under the SERVE Program from October - December. Of the 291 students served, 200 students attended all eight days of the program.

Alyssa Prince
Chief Strategy Officer



Total Agency Funding for 2019

Community Services Funding

LIHEAP Energy Assistance	\$1,437,784.00
LIHEAP Weatherization	262,274.00
Indiana Weatherization	68,207.00
Dept of Energy Weatherization	274,236.00
Community Services Block Grant •	319,137.00
Vectren Share the Warmth	29,506.00
Duke Helping Hand Program	46,800.00
Rental Income Various Properties	2,135,000.00
HUD Housing Counseling	25,948.00
Indiana Energy Assistance	14,421.00
Section 8 Housing	1,743,733.00
Duke Energy Weatherization	17,295.00
SUBTOTAL	\$6,374,341.00 32%

Area Agency on Aging Funding

FSSA Older Americans Act	\$643,607.00
FSSA Older Hoosier Funds	34,389.00
FSSA CHOICE Program	677,758.00
Case Management Services	965,322.00
Medicaid Admin/ Intake	133,055.00
Pre Admission Screening	10,834.00
FSSA Social Services Block Grant	180,481.00
NSIP Food Program	31,192.00
SHIP Counseling	7,705.00
Senior Games & Angel Foundation	2,392.00
SUBTOTAL	2,686,735.00 13%

Children's Services Funding

Head Start & Early Head Start	\$3,243,846.00
USDA Food Program	216,901.00
21st Century Learning	453,400.00
Local After School Fees	4,047.00
Child Passenger Safety	3,985.00
SUBTOTAL	\$3,922,179.00 19%

Health Care Related Funding

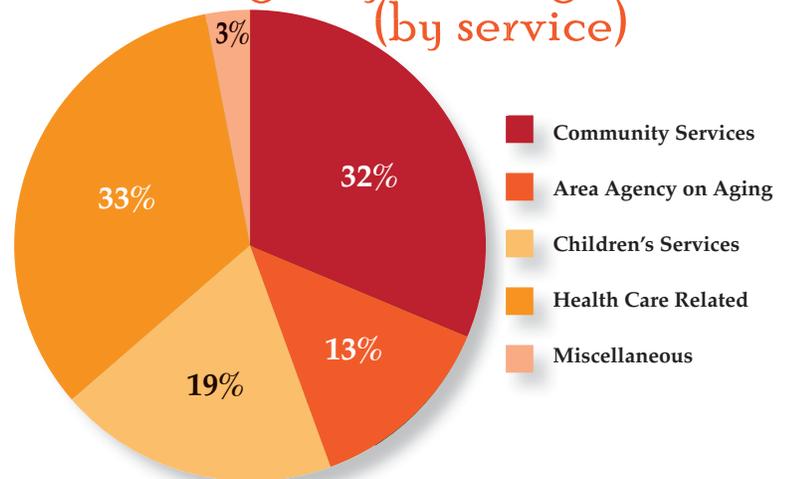
Home Health Care & Hospice	\$4,002,841.00
Martin County Health Department	81,340.00
Choices Helping Abstinent Teens	75,324.00
ISDH WIC Martin County	88,946.00
ISDH TB Contracts	178,492.00
Ind Tobacco Prevention & Cessation	147,500.00
Purdue Agrability Grant	51,350.00
AgVETS Grant	273,854.00
ECHO Program	90,000.00
Area Health Education Center	311,669.00
IU School of Medicine Student Placement	7,000.00
Serenity Now Psychiatric & Counseling	1,101,000.00
STAR Program	135,000.00
Safe Night Donations & Sponsors	7,350.00
Baby and Me Tobacco Free	75,372.00
SUBTOTAL	\$6,627,038.00 33%

Miscellaneous Funding

Information Technology Department	\$51,267.00
Miscellaneous Cash Donations	3,406.00
Mitchell Opera House Operations	67,299.00
Local Mini Grants Awarded	40,865.00
Community Development & Improvement	350,000.00
Public Safety and Improvement	50,000.00
Smithville Foundation	5,000.00
Old National Bank Foundation	5,000.00
Lehigh Cement Company	5,000.00
Lawrence County Econ Growth Council	10,000.00
Mitchell Chamber of Commerce	10,000.00
City of Mitchell	10,000.00
Lawrence County Coordinating Council	6,000.00
Hoosier Uplands Scholarship Program	18,100.00
SUBTOTAL	\$631,937.00 3%
GRAND TOTAL	\$20,242,230.00
*Includes carry over funds Does not include "In-Kind"	
100%	



2019 Agency Funding Profile (by service)



David L. Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Members of the Board - 2019



Representing Crawford County

Sharon Mitchell, Low-Income Sector
(*Treasurer*)

Billy Joe Walker, Low-Income Sector
Marolyn Holzbog, Private Sector
Bill Mitchell, Private Sector
Mary Alice Brown, Public Sector
Angela Crecelius, Public Sector

Representing Lawrence County

Sara Luallen, Low-Income Sector
Angela Turpin, Low-Income Sector
Martha Fields, Private Sector
(*Chairperson*)
Greg Taylor, Private Sector
Charlotte Speer, Public Sector
James Oswald, Public Sector

Representing Martin County

Suzanne Brown, Low-Income Sector
Gerald Montgomery, Low-Income Sector
Herman Campbell, Low-Income Sector
(*Alternate*)
Janie Johnson, Private Sector
Rosalee Wininger, Private Sector
Vicky Bauernfiend, Public Sector
Don Bowling, Public Sector

Representing Orange County

Janet Harrison, Low-Income Sector
Robert Jones, Low-Income Sector
David Dedrick, Private Sector
Reita Nicholson, Private Sector (*Secretary*)
Richard Beaty, Public Sector
Richard Dixon, Public Sector
Marietta Hager, Public Sector (*Alternate*)

Representing Washington County

Karan Jones, Low-Income Sector
Ava Kinney, Low-Income Sector
Lisa Crane, Private Sector
Ronnie Pennington, Private Sector
(*Vice Chairman*)
Max Bedwell, Public Sector
Jack Mahuron, Public Sector

Local Support is an integral part of Hoosier Uplands' success. Your donations of cash or volunteer work are much needed and appreciated.

To contribute to any of Hoosier Uplands' programs contact:
David L. Miller,
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you.

Policy Advisory Councils - 2019

Aging and Disability Advisory Council

Lisa Crane
Marietta Hager- Vice Chairperson
Eileen Lambdin
Jan Newlin-Chairperson
Janice Pendegrass

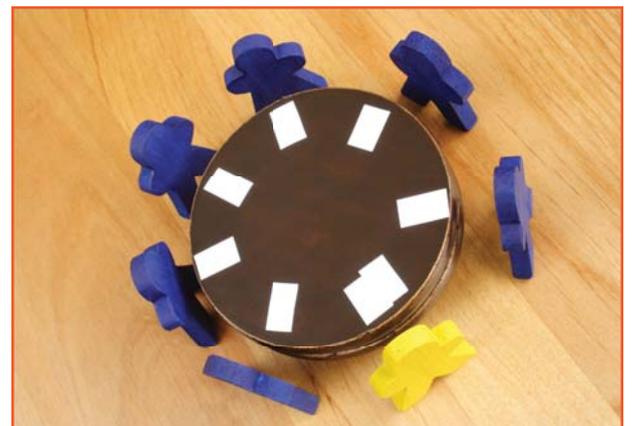
Head Start and Early Head Start Policy Council

Representing the Bedford Center—Korbyn Kline and Heather Payton
Representing the Loogootee Center— Ludemia Burgess and Sharon Freeman
Representing the Mitchell Center— Whitley Melton
Representing the Paoli Center— Kim Kinsey and Billy Watson
Representing the Salem Center— Brittany Curry and Amber Simmons
Representing Early Head Start— Shayla Basler and Janet Turner

Representing the Community:
Lawrence County—Amy Holbrook
Orange County—Gerdena Stroud
Martin County—Mayor Noel Harty
Washington County—Rhonda Mills

Representing the Board of Directors:
Janet Harrison

Honorary Member
Marietta Hager





Agency Staff Recognized

“With 10 years or more of service”

Congratulations

46 Years

Margaret Staggs

44 Years

Ola Faye Hammond

39 Years

Debbie Coleman

32 Years

David Miller
Trudy Wells

31 Years

Cindy Bailey
Debbie Beeler
Suzanne Coleman
Chris Johnson
Debbie Terry

30 Years

Cindy Bradley
Ginger Knight

29 Years

Annette Gilliland
Kris Mathews
Jenni Snow

28 Years

Vanessa Lumley

26 Years

Cheryl Boone
Karen Cooper
Irene Ervin
Amy Hopper

25 Years

JoDeana McNabb
Angelia Owens

24 Years

Diane Budd
Donna Skeen

23 Years

Addie Datish

21 Years

Glenda Duncan

20 Years

Melissa Jeremiah
Patricia Robbins
Linda Tarr
Natalie Powell

19 Years

Marsha Benson
Debbie Guthrie
Alverta Hart

Michelle Diane Short

18 Years

Julia Albright
Kim Hall
Jill Jones

17 Years

Amy Alcorn
Connie Griego
Pam Oakley

16 Years

Maria Banks
Brandon Hall
Shawna McDonald
Theresa Pate
Deanna Porter

15 Years

Michael Edwards
Linda Fisher
Karianne Hopkins
Rusti Coulter
Jennifer Rutherford

14 Years

Joanie Evans
Amber Harty
Barbara Weber-White
Lori Williams

13 Years

Robin Grissom
Angelica Hackler
Angela Stewart

12 Years

Carol Baker
Tammy Jones
Diana Kidwell
Chrystal Tincher
Sheila Tittle

11 Years

Samantha Bowles
Tamara Burgess
Audra Gerkin
Lee Grimes
Robin Guthrie
Terry Hupp
Janine Martin
Judith Taylor
Shawn Williams

10 Years

Laura Dougherty
Tom Gibson
Rhea McClintock



Hoosier Uplands Facilities



Bedford Office/Head Start Center

710 6th Street • Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 279-0412 Outreach Office
(812) 275-0052 Head Start
(812) 279-1891 Fax

Community Services Office

521 West Main Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4457
(800) 333-2451 Toll Free
(812) 849-4467 Fax

Loogootee Head Start

401 South Oak Street • Loogootee, IN 47553
(812) 295-4700 (also used as fax)

Mitchell Administrative Office

500 West Main Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4447
(800) 827-2219 Toll Free
(812) 849-6785 Fax (Administration)
(812) 849-0627 Fax (Children's Services)
(812) 849-3068 Fax (Housing & Family Services)
(812) 849-0547 Fax (Home Health)
(812) 849-0547 Fax (Hospice)
(812) 849-6974 Fax (Strategic Development)

Mitchell Head Start Center

1240 Orchard Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4448

Mitchell Opera House

217 N 7th Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4447

Paoli Head Start Center

414 W. Longest Street • Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 723-3687 • (812) 723-4633 Fax

Paoli Hoosier Uplands

Energy Assistance Office

200 S. W. Court Street, Suite 3 • Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 723-4607
(812) 723-3496 Fax

Salem Hoosier Uplands

Office/Head Start Center

902 S. Aspen Drive • Salem, IN 47167
(812) 883-5368
(800) 487-8890 Toll Free
(812) 883-8085 Fax

Serenity Now Psychiatric & Counseling Services Clinic

2125 16th Street • Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-4053 • (812) 275-5494 Fax

Shoals Office

Martin County Health Department
Corner of Second & Main Street
127 Water Street • Shoals, IN 47581
(812) 247-3303 • (812) 247-2009 Fax

APARTMENT PROJECTS

Aspen Meadows/Salem

1017 Aspen Drive • Salem, IN 47167
(812) 896-1543

College Hill Apartments/Paoli

College Hill • Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 723-0838

Eagle Place Apartments/Loogootee

510 Church Street • Loogootee, IN 47553
(812) 709-0368

Larkin Apartments/Loogootee

103 Public Square • Loogootee, IN 47553
(800) 487-8890

Lost River Place Apartments I & II/Orleans

6402 N. Vance Street • Orleans, IN 47452
(812) 865-3653

Midtown Suites Apartments/Mitchell

122 N. 6th Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4639

New Horizon Apartments/Salem

905 Aspen Drive, Suite 105 • Salem, IN 47167
(812) 883-3306

Persimmon Park Apartments/Mitchell

406 Wade Street • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-4639

Phoenix on the Square Apartments/Paoli

200 West Court Street • Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 723-0838

Pioneer Creek Apartments/Mitchell

100 Pioneer Creek Lane • Mitchell, IN 47446
(812) 849-1414

Shawnee Apartments/Bedford

100 Shawnee Lane • Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-8314

Spring Town Apartments/Marengo

144 S. Main Street • Marengo, IN 47140
(812) 365-9120

Stalker Apartments/Bedford

1429 8th Street, Suite 100 • Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 277-8562

Stonecutters Place Apartments/Bedford

1030 16th Street, Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-5205

Taylor Apartments/Campbellsburg

133 State Road 60 • Campbellsburg, IN 47108
(812) 755-4010





Special Thanks

“Contribution Partners”

Our Major Partners in 2019

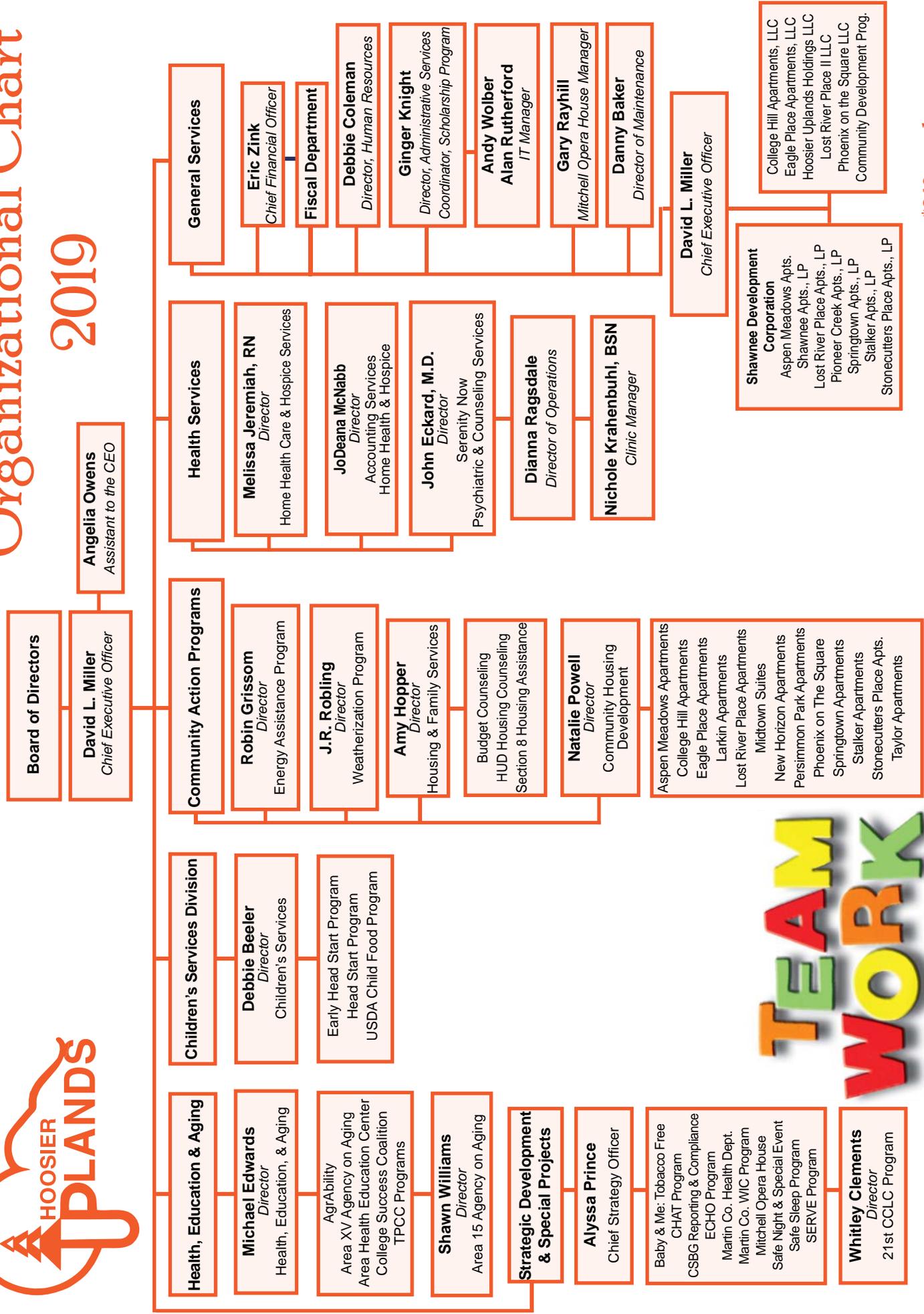
Bedford Office Supply	Lawrence County Local Coordinating Council
Bedford Public Library	Martin County Board of Health
Ben Franklin/Ace Hardware	Martin County Commissioners
Blue River Services – WIC Offices	McDonald’s - Mitchell
City of Mitchell	Military One Source
Dare to Care Food Bank	Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
Duke Energy	Mitchell Community Schools
Family and Social Service Administration	Mountjoy, Chilton and Medley LLP
Federal Home Loan Bank - Indianapolis	Edgar and Roberta Mulzer Foundation
German American Insurance	North Lawrence Community Schools
Health Care Education and Training	Old National Bank Foundation
Hoosier Hills Credit Union	OLJMG Joint Services
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute	Orleans Community Schools
Indiana Department of Education	Redemption Church
Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority - IHEDA	ResCare
Indiana Limestone	Michael Robbins
Indiana State Department of Health	Salem Community Schools
IU School of Public Health	Shoals Community Schools
Indiana University School of Medicine	Smithville Foundation
Joan Emery Prentiss Fund	Springs Valley Community Schools
Kelly Chastain - McDowell, MA CCCA	St. Vincent DePaul - Loogootee
Lawrence County Circuit Court	Strauss Investment & Financial Services
Lawrence County Community Foundation	UAW Local 440
Lawrence County Economic Growth Council	US Department of Health and Human Services
Lawrence County Fair Board	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Lawrence County Tourism Commission	Vectren Inc.
Lehigh Cement Company	Vincennes University Nursing Program
Lions Club - Bedford, Salem, Georgetown	West Washington School Corporation
	WestGate@Crane Technology Park

These businesses, organizations and individuals supported Hoosier Uplands with in-kind services, volunteer time, and/or cash donations in 2019.





Organizational Chart 2019



**TEAM
WORK**

*240 employees

