Economic Development Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

“People Helping People Since 1966”
In Memory

In memory of Pam Oakley who passed away in 2021. She worked in the Administration Office fiscal department as an Accounting Tech for 19 years, from 12/30/2002 to 03/19/2021. She is greatly missed by her co-workers at Hoosier Uplands.
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.
Hoosier Uplands

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Corporate Message

**Message from the Board of Directors**

Another year influenced by the ever changing world of COVID-19 has come and gone. Hoosier Uplands has endeavored to persevere in providing our communities with continued service with even more being added. Our agency recently received a grant for $150,000 to provide assistance with COVID related transportation needs. Our staff has followed COVID protocols by social distancing and wearing masks in the office and wherever they may be serving. With this in mind, 68% of our employees will be vaccinated by the end of this year. We appreciate their willingness to help limit the spread of COVID to others.

Many people in the area are finding it difficult to cope with our changing circumstances which have led to an increase of patients that need the services of Serenity Now.

The pandemic has demanded changes even in the way the board has functioned. We are still continuing to meet via teleconferencing for the safety of each member. We are longing to be able to meet together again face to face. Also during this year, we were saddened by the passing of one of our Board Members, Billy Joe Walker. He will be missed by the board and all he served.

As a board, we want to extend our appreciation to all the members of the Hoosier Uplands staff and CEO, David Miller for your flexibility and ingenuity in keeping Hoosier Uplands active in the helping meet the needs in each community that we serve. May God continue to bless Hoosier Uplands in the coming year.

**Message from the Chief Executive Officer**

This was another challenging year for the corporation and our 56th year of serving the area. We fought the good fight, trying to keep programs operating and staff safe in the worst pandemic in our lifetimes. Sadly we lost a great employee, Pam Oakley, and a long time Board Member and friend Billy Joe Walker in 2021. They are both greatly missed. In 2021, we did get about 70% of our staff vaccinated and kept in place safety protocols in all departments. I am very proud of our staff for being so flexible and our Board for meeting by teleconference throughout the year.

In the midst of this challenge we did receive a new grant in partnership with the Washington County YMCA. We continued with improvements at New Horizon Apartments and we granted funds though our CDIP and PSIP programs to 33 other non profits and units of local government. We also were awarded a grant that has enabled us to help people with transportation related issues.

A reading of this Annual Report will further demonstrate the work that has been done.

I salute our staff, true heroes in the midst of chaos, and I thank the Board for their support during these tough times.

At the end of last year’s message I wrote that we are looking for a new and better “normal” for 2021. I feel that is coming in 2022. With God’s guidance and love, we will make it through to a better new normal.

I feel blessed to have been a small part of this journey we have all endured as a family.
Community Development & Improvement Program 2021/
Public Safety Improvement Program

In 2021, our Community Development and Improvement Program and Public Safety Improvement Programs assisted 32 different agencies or units of government with over $530,000 in grants for various projects. Those included:

- Agape Kid’s House
- Bedford Church Camp
- BNL Schools Career Center
- Bread of Life Food Pantry
- City of Loogootee
- City of Mitchell
- GRACE House
- Hoosier Hills PACT
- La Or Ma Shrine Club
- Lawrence County Prosecutor
- Lawrence County Volunteer Fire Departments
- Marengo Fire Department
- Martin County Historical Society
- Martin County Humane Society
- Men’s Warming Shelter-Bedford
- Orange County Cancer Patients
- Orange County Police Departments
- Paoli Fire Department
- Paoli Playground Project
- Salem High School
- Salem Police Department
- Shoals Community Schools
- South Crawford Schools
- Southern Indiana Veterans Rehab
- Thrive Orange County
- Washington County Fair Board
- Washington County Helping Hands
- Washington County Humane Society
- Washington County YMCA
- West Baden Colored Church Restoration
- Youth First Inc. Orange County

Community Housing Development

Hoosier Uplands is committed to providing safe, affordable, housing to low/moderate income individuals in our five county area of Crawford, Lawrence, Orange, Martin, and Washington. In 2021, we secured a $1.5M grant to rehabilitate New Horizon Apartments, our 56 unit Rural Development property in Salem. Some items being addressed are accessibility, roofing, bathroom and kitchen remodels. This project will wrap up in the summer of 2022.

We also maintain a goal as a Community Housing Development Organization to provide a living environment that is safe and adaptable increasing the probability that clients can remain safely in their homes as life’s circumstances change. We accomplished this in 2021 by securing a grant for Orange and Washington Counties for Owner Occupied Rehabilitation in the cumulative amount of $350,000 to serve 14 homes.

Our team of 12 plus our Director continue to work diligently for our clients by remaining involved on a State and National level and continuing our education on changing regulations and navigating the new territory of a pandemic that we hope 2022 brings to an end. We look forward to continuing to serve our communities in 2022 and wish everyone a healthy year!

Natalie Powell
Director of Community & Housing Development

CSBG

Hoosier Uplands has been awarded a one year grant in the amount of $100,000 through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to provide transportation assistance to those in need. This program began October 1, 2021 and is available to clients that are at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. However, due to Continuing Resolution in Congress we were able to assist clients at or below 200% of the federal poverty level through 2021. To be eligible, clients must also demonstrate that they have a need that is related to the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. Preference is given to those who demonstrate a need for assistance to gain/maintain employment and or access to community resources and services.

The types of assistance provided will include: gas cards up to $250, transportation vouchers up to $250, vehicle repairs up to $1,000, car payments up to $500, car insurance premiums for up to three months and no more than $600 as well as other transportation needs outside of these listed up to $500. During 2021, 54 clients were assisted through the transportation grant.

Amanda Wolfe
Director of CSBG/Energy Assistance
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 offset the high cost of energy for households at or below 60% of the State Median income level. Hoosier Uplands received $2,094,002.91 to administer the program in 2020-2021.

- 2,942 Households served
- 1,860 Elderly served
- 1,812 Disabled served
- 5,217 Household members served

The CARES Act funding was released on June 1, 2020. This funding is to provide LIHEAP services through the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. Funds are administered when a household has an eligible member whose income was affected due to the pandemic. The program ran through September 30, 2021. Hoosier Uplands was funded at $401,727.00 with eligible clients receiving a benefit of $350.00 towards their electric or heat vendor.

Energy Assistance administered the Duke Helping Hand Program for Duke Energy in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington counties. Hoosier Uplands received $51,100.00 for the 2020-2021 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 and 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.

Amanda Wolfe
Director of Energy Assistance/ CSBG

Weatherization

Hoosier Uplands continues 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 2020-2021 Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization grant contract was funded at $216,074.00. This grant allowed services to be provided to 24 households at an average cost per home of $7,000.00 with a $988.71 average cost per home for Health and Safety.

Our Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant for 2020-2021 was funded at $191,369.00. We were able to weatherize 10 homes under the capital intensive section of this grant with a total average cost per home of $12,500.00. In the mechanical section of the grant, we were able to do repairs or replace 17 heating systems at an average cost per home of $5,500.00.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) also provided additional funding through a State LIHEAP grant in the amount of $8,181.77 and these funds paid for 4 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. This was the remaining funding from last year. State LIHEAP will no longer be available. 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 2020-21, Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) provided additional funding through Vectren Share the Warmth Program. Hoosier Uplands received $14,627.00 of that funding which helped weatherize seven households.

In 2021, Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) provided additional funding through American Electric Power Health & Safety Home Repair Program (AEP). Hoosier Uplands received $29,929.00. We utilized this funding source for Health & Safety issues and deferral issues. This funding source helped nine households to be weatherized.

Duke Energy and Vectren 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 $20,755.76 in which we utilized for deferral and health and safety issues.

This was the eighth 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 2020/2021, nine households received assistance with the program cost of $12,551.93.

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
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 2021, Hoosier Uplands presented 253 graduating students with scholarship awards amounting to $353,550.00. To date, the amount of the scholarship is $1,400 per student.

2021 marked the 29th year of the Hoosier Uplands Scholarship program.

Due to the pandemic, the July, 2021 Hoosier Uplands Board of Directors meeting was not held inside but via teleconference; therefore, all scholarship awards were mailed to each of the 11 high school seniors that were chosen by their high school committee made up of faculty or their high school foundation. Those students who received scholarships are:

- Crawford County High Schools
  - Crawford County
  - Crawford County High School
  - Crawford County

- Lawrence High School
  - Lawrence
  - Lawrence High School
  - Lawrence

- Martin
  - Martin
  - Martin

- Orange
  - Orange
  - Orange

- Washington
  - Washington
  - Washington

Family Services

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, basic credit information, fair housing, mortgage default/delinquency, pre-purchase/pre-rental counseling, loss mitigation and renter assistance. There were 52 families who received housing counseling services in 2021.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority contracted with Hoosier Uplands in March of 2021 to assist with the state Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Our role was to review submitted documents and complete approvals. This program assisted families with 15 months of rent and delinquent utilities.

Housing Choice Voucher Program

The 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, 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 HCV 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; applicants are placed on a waiting list that is maintained by Hoosier Uplands. When eligibility is completed, the tenant is given a voucher that states HUD 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. Hoosier Uplands ended 2021 with 372 active participants. The Housing Choice Voucher Program disbursed $1,432,898 to property owners of the eight counties that we serve in 2021. Tenants received $52,865 for utility reimbursements in 2021.

Housing Choice Voucher inspections were suspended due to COVID-19 for most of 2021, they were restarted in late fall, making sure to take proper safety precautions.

Ginger Knight
Director of Administrative Services/Coordinator of Scholarship Program

Amy Hopper
Director of Housing and Family Services
History of 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 educational, emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Since the first eight-week summer Head Start program Hoosier Uplands operated in 1966, the program has grown to provide Head Start services in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington counties with centers in Bedford, Mitchell, Paoli, Salem and Loogootee. Through a partnership with North Lawrence Community Schools, Hoosier Uplands also operates two classrooms in the North Lawrence Learning Center. Hoosier Uplands provides Early Head Start services through a home-based model of service delivery.

During 2021, all parent activities were again held virtually with the exception of the December Family Fun Night. A book bingo event was held via Facebook Live in September and parents loved it. In December, center staff hung outdoor lights and decorations at each site to provide a drive-thru event for our families. Santa was there to wave to the children and goody bags were handed out to the children as they exited.

Child outcomes are an important measure of the developmental gains that children make while in both Head Start and Early Head Start. Operating on a school year calendar, the results of those children that attended Head Start in the 2020/2021 school year is shown in the table at the end of this section.

It is evident that providing a six-week summer program for children enrolled in Head Start increased gains in all domains and further ensured that the children would arrive at kindergarten on track and ready to learn.

Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start is provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The funding year for Hoosier Uplands’ Head Start and Early Head Start grant begins on May 1 and runs through April 30 each year. For the grant period that began on May 1, 2021, Hoosier Uplands received $2,513,087 to provide Head Start services to 221 children and families, and $28,383 for staff training. Early Head Start funding totaled $831,078 for program operations to serve 66 infants, toddlers and pregnant women and $18,186 for staff training for a total budget of $3,390,734.

Programs were notified in early 2021 of the availability of federal funds to provide Cost Of Living Allowances for staff. Head Start received $30,660 and Early Head Start received $10,139 and all funds were used to increase the hourly rate of pay for all program staff.

Total funding received in program year 2020-2021 was $3,642,951.

All federal Head Start and Early Head Start funding allocations are required to be matched at the local level. The match is acquired through discounts and donations of program supplies as well as parent and community volunteers. For the grant year that began on May 1, 2021, Hoosier Uplands was required to generate $847,684 in local match for the federal funding received. Due to the constraints of COVID-19, Hoosier Uplands will again apply for a waiver of a portion of the required non-federal match.

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 2021. 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 2021, a total of 83,511 reimbursable meals and snacks were served to an average of 445 children per month during the school year. Reimbursement received during 2021 totaled $137,058.06.

Debbie Beeler  
Director of Children’s Services
Information Technology Services

Once again, as with all of the HUEDC Agency, 2021 was an interesting and challenging year for IT Services. At the very start of 2021 IT Services finished upgrading the started implementing Microsoft Office 2013 upgrading the 2010 version that the agency was currently standardized on. As of the end of 2020, IT services have implemented over 90- remote units during the pandemic. IT Services also finished implementing application upgrades to the Home Health EMR platform and the Serenity Now Clinic EHR platform. IT services also implemented a upgrades to several of the apartment complex offices.

By the end of March, IT Services was faced with the many challenges that were facilitated by the return of HU staff to the office COVID-19 pandemic. The greatest of these was how to switch much back the agency workforce from remote computing platforms, but being able to switch back to remote computing quickly as conditions warranted it. IT Services in conjunction with Smithville Communications implemented a WAN network that interconnected the main & aging buildings along with the Serenity Now location via fiber optics links and through the internet at an increased bandwidth. We also finished implementation of Google Office and Microsoft Office 2013 suites in several departments at Hoosier Uplands. IT Services, in conjunction with Strategic Development and Lawrence Co Health Department, continued support of the COVID-19 hotline through the use of a cellular phone network system provided by Verizon Wireless.

IT Services also continued support of a remote computing platform for employees to access their essential work from home. At the Serenity Now location, a telemedicine platform was implemented and all staff was migrated over to a remote access workflow. Through the month of May IT Services helped facilitating the return of all staff to their prospective offices. Almost every department in some way was working at least partially from home through the remote services and teleconferencing platform. To date, this is one of the greatest accomplishments of the IT Services department. In all, IT Services had deployed over 200 mobile devices throughout the agency. Approximately 90% of agency staff switched to some version of remote computing. With the sudden introductions of new COVID-19 variants and the surges associated with them, IT Services has been able to swap between in office and remote computing depending on the need.

In 2021, IT Services also upgraded both hardware and software platforms for several departments including, Fiscal, Home Health and Aging. IT services also implemented upgrades to several of the apartment complex offices along with web services upgrades on the Google Office platform. IT Services also started implementing bandwidth upgrades at several satellite offices and Head Start centers. IT services also updated and implemented the last of the antivirus migrations from the old Symantec system to the current Trend Micro platform. IT Services also upgraded several satellite offices with new Wi-Fi access points to improve speed and security. IT Services installed an external cellular antenna at Martin Co. Health Dept. IT Services also are in preliminary talks with RTC Communications on the feasibility of fiber internet at offices in Loogootee and Shoals.

In October, the State of Indiana implemented an IT assessment questionnaire to all Indiana Health Departments. IT Services assisted in the assessment along with implementing its own security self-assessment of the Martin Co. Health Dept. IT Services also upgraded and patched several systems for the MCHD office in Shoals. In November, IT Services also implemented several new desktop units for Serenity Now IT Services attended a web meeting with SIDC to discuss web infrastructure needs for Lawrence County.

IT services continued their support of Paoli Community Schools during the 2021 school year and was involved in the day to day operations, such as Chromebook repairs, electronic door lock management, web-filtering adjustments, Google/Windows domain administration, desktop repair, required state reporting, and e-rate submission which saved the school around $31,872 dollars on their internet and WiFi billing. Major projects that have taken place during the 2021 year included the transitioning to a new automated state reporting platform that pulls data directly from the student database system. This is a three year process, in conjunction with the State of Indiana, to get all state reporting moved over and automated. IT services has been an integral part of implementation and data correctly imported.

Other projects this past year included the migration of the school system financial software to its new server from the outdated server. Upgrading the high school and elementary school HVAC software control system, implementing TV displays in the hallways to display announcements and information at the high school. IT Services also supported 10 new vapor sensors in the bathrooms at the high school these vapor sensors help stop some of the vaping issues at the high school. Other approved projects recommended by IT Services that will be completed in 2022 a new fiber between the high school and elementary, running fiber from the football/athletic complex to the football press box.

The FCC also put out a new program this year called the Emergency Connectivity Fund, IT services applied for funding 100 laptops and bus WiFi, Paoli Schools received approval of $47,613.41 reimbursement to help pay for these items, which will be purchased at the start of 2022 year.

In May, IT Services made a recommendation that seventy five interactive View boards be purchased, to replace projectors and smartboards, many of which were 10 plus years old. The interactive boards were brighter, clearer, and give more features than a standard projector such as interactivity on anything displayed. Starting in October, IT Services has installed these in classrooms, throughout the school corporation. The plan is to order a second round of these in 2022.

Hoosier Uplands IT Services Revenue for 2021
PAOLI COMM SCHOOLS 2021 YTD $26,168.00
IT SERVICES 2021 YTD TOTAL $26,168.00

Andrew Wolber
Director of Information Technology Services

Alan Rutherford
Assistant Director of IT Services
Strategic Development

Baby & Me: Tobacco Free

The Baby & Me: Tobacco Free (BMTF) program at Hoosier Uplands began in July of 2015 as a result of a grant from the Indiana Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, and serves Crawford, Harrison, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. In 2020, the program was extended for another year and continues to staff a full-time person. 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 participation. In addition to the BMTF program, CO (COVID-19 Pandemic) meetings were held virtually from April until the end of August. The facilitator made contact with the participants to ensure they were receiving whatever support they needed to achieve cessation. Handouts were sent regularly through email and the postal service. If the participant could confirm that they were tobacco-free, they were mailed vouchers. In August, the program continued providing the sessions virtually. After securing an incentive, parents were contacted in person at Burris in order to confirm that they were tobacco-free and to receive a voucher.

Since the program began in 2015, a total of 396 referrals have been received with 15 of them from 2021. Due to the pandemic, referring agencies were shut down and unable to refer participants from January until October. There were a total of 53 active participants in 2021 who met with the program coordinator for at least the initial session. A total of 48 mothers have completed the entire program since 2015 and were eligible to receive all 14 vouchers. Thirteen of these parents finished the program in 2021. The program also served eight support partners for 2021.

Before and After School Programs

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Afterschool Programs operated with two grant Cohorts in 2021. Cohort 9 served 202 children in grades Kindergarten through 6th at Burris, Hatfield, Springs Valley, and West Washington elementary schools. Cohort 8 served 120 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th at Shoals and Orleans elementary schools. The afterschool programs served a total of 322 students in the 2020/2021 school year.

The daily schedule includes a healthy snack, such as: fresh fruits, vegetables, and yogurt, and is granted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program primarily focuses 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 and the 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 enrichment and educational activities in a fun learning environment that will lead to better school day academics and classroom behavior.

The SAFER morning program for Burris is a paid program that provides students with before school childcare at the Burris site in Mitchell. The program starts at 6:30 a.m. and goes until the beginning of the school day. In the 2020/2021 school year, the morning program served 10 students.

Brighter Futures for Families (BFF) Program

Brighter Futures for Families partners with community resources in each respective county in order to help families navigate the systems of care needed to sustain healthy families. The resources needed differ for each family, but the focus for every family is to acquire and maintain health insurance and adequate health care, job security, education, interview and resume skills if needed, housing, food and transportation. With each meeting, a safety topic will be discussed in the hopes of lowering the number of preventable accidents in the home. The classes include but are not limited to: safe sleep, gun safety, water safety, car seat safety, baby care skills, fire safety, and poison safety. Participants earn gift cards, gas cards, and phone cards by earning points with communication and participation. Education and health classes will be included with each class. The BFF program began in October and has served 13 families with five pending referrals. Gift card incentives have been earned twice since the beginning of the program as well as 10 families have received educational kits. As COVID protocol lessons, more referrals will be received, but currently, many referring agencies are not conducting in person meetings, therefore written referrals cannot be obtained.

CHaT (Choices Helping Abstinent Teens)

Hoosier Uplands’ CHaT (Choices Helping Abstinent Teens) Program is an abstinence education program that encourages youth to remain abstinent in order to protect their health and future goals. The program is funded by the Indiana Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, along with in-kind funds from local partners.

The program utilizes the Making a Difference curriculum and is delivered in eight sessions. The curriculum educates junior high and high school students during health classes in Daviess, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Pike, and Washington counties.

The CHaT Program educates students on how to get out of high risk situations, setting limits, 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 developing a positive self image.

In the year of 2021, the CHaT program served Daviess, Dubois, Jackson and Martin counties. Program coordinators were able to implement the program face to face.

A total of 522 students were served in 2021. According to surveys, 86% of the program participants increased their knowledge on abstinence as the means of preventing teen pregnancy, birth, and STIs.

Child Passenger Safety

This year, Hoosier Uplands had an additional six staff members complete the Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) certification, making for a total of ten staff members holding the certification. The CPSTs utilize their training in order to educate families and caregivers and teach them the proper techniques for installing car seats. As part of the Child Passenger Safety program, Hoosier Uplands receives car seats from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, to provide replacement car seats free of cost to qualifying families and caregivers when needed. This program covers Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant effect on the Child Passenger Safety program. Due to this, technicians created a new digital strategy to offer virtual appointments and in-person appointments, to accommodate the client’s wants or needs. The virtual appointments offered all the same educational and demonstration components as an in-person meeting. The new digital strategy also included establishing a Facebook page for the program in order to reach more community members and partners. Overall in 2021, the program conducted 56 car seat inspections and distributed 55 car seats to families in need.

Choices Initiative

The Choices Initiative program began in July of 2020 and is funded through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). This funding
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 2021 event had planned to have long time favorites such as airbrush, face painting, t-shirt tie-dying, inflatable games and obstacle courses, hot dogs and chips, ice cream, snow cones, popcorn, and much, much more. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic the event was cancelled until further notice.

Safe Sleep

In 2016, Hoosier Uplands began implementing the Indiana Safe Sleep Program in Crawford, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. The Indiana Department of Health, in partnership with the Cribs for Kids National Infant Safe Sleep Initiative, implemented a statewide program that provided education and infant survival kits to infant caregivers and families. The program funding ended in 2019, but Hoosier Uplands was able to continue the program in order to provide safe sleep education and cribs to families in need, through partnerships with other internal programs as well as funding from local grants. In 2021, Hoosier Uplands distributed 16 cribs to local families in need of a safe place for their child to sleep.

Opera House

In 2021, the Mitchell Opera House completed its sixth 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many temporary changes and set-backs have been brought upon the Mitchell Opera House.

The Mitchell Opera House was fortunate to have held several shows during 2021, and most shows had a good turnout of guests amid the social distancing and mask rules and recommendations. The Mitchell Opera House was able to host several donation concerts, concerts in the community park, and one fundraiser event to benefit the Kentucky Tornado Victims, which raised over $3,800. Throughout 2021, Mitchell Opera House hosted a variety of tribute bands, comedians, famous and award-winning artists, and even a film screening for the special needs students of MJHS.

Major sponsors and contributors of the Opera House in 2021 included: German American Insurance, Hoosier Hills Credit Union, Lawrence County Tourism Commission, Lehigh Cement Company, Old National Bank, and the Smithville Foundation. Sponsor donations were also received from Byron and Ann Steele for the Nostalgia Band performance, which has been rescheduled due to COVID-19. The venue also received donations from the VFW post #9107, covering the entire cost of one of the free concerts.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grant was received to expand the LifeSkills program throughout southern Indiana to replace the ECHO program. The LifeSkills program is designed to be implemented to high school students, and covers the following topics: The Value of Good Health, Decision-Making for Health, Risk-Taking and Substance Abuse, The Media and Health, Managing Stress, Anger, and Other Emotions, Family Communications, and Healthy Relationships.

In the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year, coordinators were able to implement the LifeSkills program to seven schools, and serve 218 students.

Not only will the TPP grant allow the LifeSkills program to be presented in more schools, the grant is also funding virtual conversations to have with youth and parents. The virtual conversations for youth are referred to as “#WOWTalks,” and the parent version is called a “Parent Café.” The goal of these conversations is to give youth and their parents an opportunity to discuss topics they may not otherwise have the chance to discuss.

A lot of training and prep work went into the Café sessions through the summer of 2021. When schools began in August, coordinators were able to implement the virtual programing to three adolescents and three parents. Program coordinators hope to take the virtual platform to in-person sessions in 2022.
Hoosier Uplands Awards $16,000 To Youth First, Inc.

Hoosier Uplands, Inc., a Christian, not-for-profit, charitable organization, has awarded a $16,000 grant to Youth First, Inc., a developer of innovative programs designed to help young people and their families. The grant will support Youth First's work in Martin County, where it operates a Youth First Community Center in partnership with the Martin County Community Action Agency.

Housing choice voucher program accepting applications for waiting list

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8, in its public housing areas. The program provides rental assistance to low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

Orleans Fire Department receives $2,500 grant

The Orleans Fire Department has received a $2,500 grant from the Orleans Community Foundation to help purchase a new transportation van for the La-Or-Ma Shrine Club. The van will be used to transport club members to events and meetings.

Donations help launch Orange County Youth Mentoring Program

The Orange County Youth Mentoring Program, which aims to provide one-on-one mentoring to Orange County youth, has received donations of $10,000 and $5,000. The donations, which were made by anonymous donors, will help fund the program.

Hoosier Uplands Donates $25,000 Toward Purchase Of A New Transportation Van For La-Or-Ma Shrine Club

Hoosier Uplands, a Christian, not-for-profit, charitable organization, has donated $25,000 to help purchase a new transportation van for the La-Or-Ma Shrine Club. The van will be used to transport club members to events and meetings.

Hoosier Uplands rolls out two new programs

Hoosier Uplands, a Christian, not-for-profit, charitable organization, has rolled out two new programs: a community-based mentorship program and a multi-sport program.

Hoosier Uplands to buy VR simulator

Hoosier Uplands, a Christian, not-for-profit, charitable organization, has purchased a virtual reality simulator to help youth learn about the dangers of alcohol and drug use. The simulator, which is called "Life's Choice," allows users to experience the consequences of drinking and driving in a safe, controlled environment.

North Lawrence Community Center purchases thermal imaging camera

The North Lawrence Community Center has purchased a thermal imaging camera to help detect potential hazards in the center's facilities. The camera, which is called "FLIR" and costs $1,500, will be used by the center's maintenance staff to identify hot spots that could lead to fires or other safety issues.
Area XV Agency on Aging

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 to provide 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, conduct 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 III 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 III 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.

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 19th 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

Indiana AgVets

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 and the Indiana Farmer Veteran Coalition. It is supported by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s National Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

We completed Cohort 2 with 42 enrollees. Safety training continues as an on-line OSHA training, certifications completed include Master Gardener, UAV drone training, AI classes, Indiana Watershed Leadership training, CDL certifications and more. Five area workshops were held in conjunction with AgrAbility and the Indiana Farmer Veteran Coalition for training, networking, updates, and an assistive technology demonstration. Many webinars were available including a virtual AgrAbility National Training workshop. Currently, 15 internships are being completed.

South Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Each year, SCI-AHEC serves a total of 12 counties within the South Central Indiana region with an overall goal of strengthening the health careers pipeline. This is accomplished by first working with students in middle and high school to expose them to health careers and post-secondary opportunities. AHEC continues working with these students as they enter college/university by enhancing their education and experience in the healthcare field. This includes setting up rotations or clinicals at local health care facilities and the AHEC Scholars Fellowship. As students graduate and become practicing health care professionals, AHEC continues to support them by offering high quality continuing education opportunities.

A total of 61 health profession students were placed in rotations throughout the South Central region. Additionally, two new preceptors joined the SCI-AHEC preceptor network. The AHEC Scholars Program had six health students graduate for the cohort of 2021 in May. The program currently has 28 health profession students engaging with rural and underserved areas with a focus on interprofessional collaboration. For professionals, a total of five mini-grants were funded and continuing education opportunities were provided to 62 health professionals.

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. During 2021, the majority of the nursing hours were dedicated to Covid-19. Information and updates were provided to county officials and the newspapers on a regular basis. Many hours were spent on vaccinations, follow up with Covid-19 positive patients and answering questions for members of our 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 2021, 482 birth and death certificates were issued, no home births were recorded and 73 deaths were recorded. A total of six genealogy reports were issued to the public. There were 29 residential sewage disposal system applications and 34 soil reports received in 2021. A total of 19 septic installations were completed. There were 75 contractor/homeowner meetings attended for various environmental related issues. There were 24 food establishments inspected. During weekly clinics and special events, 479 patients were immunized. These patients received a total of 943 injections. In addition to our normal immunization clinics, Covid-19 vaccination clinics were held 1-4 days per week throughout the year based on demand and availability of vaccinations. A total of 5,403 Covid-19 vaccines were administered in 2021. This included 1st and 2nd doses, booster doses and pediatric doses. The Health Department also provided 11 free blood pressure screenings. The Health Department and WIC office also did a total of 12 free lead screening tests for children.

**Martin County WIC Program**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children eat well and stay healthy. WIC serves 53 percent of all infants born in the United States.

**WIC provides:**

- Healthy foods designed to meet special nutrition needs
- Nutrition and health screening and assessment
- Nutrition education and counseling
- Breastfeeding support

USDA has granted states significant program flexibilities and contingencies to best serve program participants. Martin County WIC has been providing services to clients through a combination of telephone contacts and in-person meetings and have been able to issue WIC benefits remotely to their EBT card.

Martin County WIC staff served approximately 368 clients in FY21 with an average monthly caseload of 200. Despite the many challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, WIC caseload stayed pretty consistent compared to previous years. Since most services were provided remotely hemoglobin and lead screening rates were decreased significantly.

**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 continued outreach to our communities on the harms of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. While 2021 continued to be a very challenging year for the coalitions, they continued to adapt and adjust to continue their tobacco control work.

Coalitions in Daviess, Knox and Lawrence counties continued to build support for comprehensive smoke-free air ordinances that would protect more workers from secondhand smoke in workplaces and public spaces. 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 48 Preferred Referral Network providers and organizations as well as 59 coalition members and partners. The Daviess County Coalition has worked to build grassroots support for local smoke-free air laws by educating the Mayor, City Council members, and Economic Development Director. The Daviess County Coalition has provided outreach to our local veterans, including our VA Officer and VFW. We set up a table at a Veteran’s Day event to show appreciation to veterans for their service and build support for smoke-free air. The Daviess County Coalition has also been working with organizations that serve marginalized populations including our LGBTQ+ Pride Coalition, Peer Recovery Program, and Healthy Start: Communities that CARE. The Daviess County Coalition participated in an event at the park for Recovery Month, where we partnered with other substance abuse agencies as we work to improve the health of our community.

The Knox County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition reaches out to 43 Preferred Referral Network members and 33 coalition members/partners. The coalition has been reaching out to organizations that serve marginalized populations to invite them to be part of the coalition and to see if there are ways to work together with these organizations. The coalition was also able to conduct training on the Breathe: Healthy Steps to Living Tobacco free program with Children and Family Services and Heart to Heart, INC. a women’s resource center. The coalition was also able to work with The Salvation Army on a tobacco-free grounds policy for their campus. The Breathe Easy Vincennes Coalition (local smoke-free air effort) has 570 supporters who have signed a petition or smoke-free air supporter card. The Breathe Easy Vincennes Coalition was able to have a display at the Knox County Public Library in July to highlight smoke-free air and the Indiana Tobacco Quitline. The coalition also had a table one Saturday at the Vincennes Farmer’s Market. The coalition also participated in the Party at the Pavilion back to school event. The coalition, with help from our members and partners, also helped organizations in the community by donating goods to several organizations. The coalition provided items to Hope’s Voice of Daviess and Knox counties, Knox County Veteran’s Service Office, Vincennes Animal Shelter, The Salvation Army, BABE Store, WIC, Civilian Children’s Center, Phoebe’s Mission, Good Samaritan Comfort Cart, and Helping His Hands. This “random acts of kindness” project provided a unique opportunity to reach out and help our community. The Breathe Easy Vincennes Coalition continues to reach out to our locally elected officials to educate them on the need and importance of smoke-free air for our community.

Each of these coalitions continued to have an active presence in their communities. With many community events cancelled or significantly changed in 2021, the coalitions have found unique ways to use various opportunities to reach out to the community this year 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,
Martin County Health Department
“Not All Home Care and Hospice Agencies are Created Equal”

Once again this year was a very unusual year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We would like to start out by giving kudos to our Health Care Heroes in Home Health Care & Hospice. We are so very proud of each and every one of our caring staff for stepping up and continuing to serve and meet the needs of others.

And the Winners Are:

Again this year I have opted not to give the Caregiver of the Year Awards that are normally presented in December. Everyone in Home Health Care & Hospice went above and beyond this year; and are worthy of these awards. I am so very proud of each and every one of you for stepping up and continuing to serve and meet the needs of others when they needed us the most. During this time we have worked as a team; without skipping a beat. Our staff have put the needs of our patients upfront and foremost.

Using the same scoring system I use for the Caregiver of the Year Awards, this year I am giving an honorary award to the persons from Home Health & Hospice Field Staff and Office Staff. Join me in congratulating the persons named below who scored the highest in their categories:

Debbie Guthrie, RN, Phyllis Morris, RN, Rhea McClintock, HHA and Lori Williams, Intake Coordinator

Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice were named the Best of Lawrence County in the Medical Home Care Category.

We could never do this without our staff!

They are all Winners:

Wonderful Incredible Neighborly Nice Exceptional Radiant Super-Stars!

Vanessa Lumley, LPN, Plan of Care Review Nurse was recognized for 30 Years of Service.

Melissa remains on the NAHC Board of Directors; and was serves as Secretary of the IAHHC Board of Directors.

Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice continues to be CHAP accredited. CHAP accreditation means we meet the highest quality standards in the nation.

Hoosier Uplands Hospice Team:

Sitting: Keri Southern, RN, Phyllis Morris, RN and Mary Crowder, RN, Hospice Patient Care Coordinator Standing: Becky Haagsma, LCSW/ Bereavement Coordinator, Angela Hall, LPN, Gina Camp, RN, Home Health/Hospice Liaison and Lee Grimes, Hospice Intake and Volunteer Coordinator

Therapy Team:

We welcomed Dana Jones, PT who will serve as the Therapy Services Coordinator

Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care Office Team:

Sitting Front Row: Megan Evans, HHA Scheduler/Therapy Services Coordinator, Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE, Director of Operations and Vanessa Lumley, LPN, Plan of Care Review Nurse. Standing Middle Row: Lee Grimes, Hospice Intake Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator/Medical Records Manager and Mary Crowder, RN, Clinical Services Supervisor/ Hospice Patient Care Coordinator

Standing Back Row: Mandi Dersch, RN, Assistant Director/Clinical Manager, Gina Camp, RN, Home Health/Hospice Liaison, Sarah Miller, Clinical Records Manager and Lori Williams, Intake Coordinator
Home Health Care and Hospice

“The Choice of Hoosier Families for Generations!”

Home Health Care

Home Health staff provided 21,861 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?

“I commend these people on the profession they have chosen.”
“…there was a COVID waiver on the requirement that 5% of its patient care/office hours be provided by volunteers. Volunteers donated 9.57 hours, which is .08%, for a savings of $478.50. Bereavement support is offered 12 months following a patient’s death to their loved ones. This support includes a series of letters, phone contacts, visits or other information and referral as requested. There were 52 bereavement families followed.

Health Care Division

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

Hospice

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Luke Mosemann, Medical Director and Dr. Daniel O’Brien, Physician Designee. Hospice provided support to 77 families. Services were provided by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Hospice Aides, Social Workers and other auxiliary services. Spiritual, volunteer and dietary counseling were also provided.

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

“…we increase access and improve quality of care for Veterans. Hoosier Uplands Hospice is Level 4 with 10 Level 4 hospices in the state of IN.

Client Maintenance

The Client Maintenance program provided 2,068 visits to non-skilled services to our patients.

Hoosier Uplands Hospice was named a 2021 Hospice Honors Recipient for continuously providing the highest level of satisfaction through care as measured from the patient’s point of view.
The year 2021, continued to bring many challenges to Serenity Now due to the ongoing pandemic, staffing challenges and the overall mental health surges seen throughout the country. We continue to operate on a hybrid model with patients being seen both in person and via telehealth. Our providers completed 9,562 therapy visits, including 580 new patient evaluations, and 4,786 medical visits.

In January, as we moved into the new year, Serenity Now continued to utilize telehealth for services with the exception of children and EMDR clients. In February we returned to the Covid-19 plans with providers transitioning to returning to the office one day a week. As the year progressed, the number of days the providers were in the office increased, as well as the number of clients. In addition to seeing children in person, providers had the option to bring other clients into the office that they felt needed to be seen in person and this was done on a limited amount per provider, per day. As of July 1st, all therapists have returned to the office full time and the medical providers remain working from home part-time.

Haley Maranda, LMHC, successfully passed the licensing examination for clinical addictions counselor and obtained her Indiana license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor. In addition, Ms. Maranda and Kaitlin Powell, LMHC, both completed their training and supervision hours for Eye Movement Desensitization and Processing (EMDR). As a result, Serenity Now has four therapists trained in this technique that is beneficial in working with patients who have experienced trauma.

Serenity Now renewed our partnership with the Lawrence County Probation Department effective March 1, 2021 and continues to provide services to ADAPT clients. Initially it was planned to implement a group program to provide these services, but due to the ongoing pandemic, that plan has been put on hold.

John Eckard, MD, continues to provide psychiatric medication management services for LifeSpring Health Systems. This partnership with LifeSpring provides much needed psychiatric services for the underserved community in Southern Indiana. In addition, Dr. Eckard has entered into a similar partnership with Southern Indiana Community Health Care to provide four hours of coverage per week beginning in January of 2022.

Due to a decrease from full-time to part-time hours, Michael Dockery, LMFT, resigned from the position of Clinical Manager. This position was subsequently split into two separate positions. Haley Maranda, LMHC, LCAC, was promoted to Administrative Supervisor, taking on the administrative portions of the Clinical Manager position and is the point person for clinical policies, Aprima issues, EPICS reports, and computer related concerns. Tom Trent, LCSW, was promoted to Clinical Supervisor, and assumed the clinical duties including evaluating intake packets to determine whether Serenity Now can meet the clients' level of care, interacting with external organizations such as DCS and being the point person for therapists needs. These changes were effective August 1, 2021.

Staffing challenges have been an issue in 2021. Mary Braden, LMHC, relocated and had continued to provide a few hours of coverage via telehealth, but due to time constraints was unable to continue. Teryn McGlothlin, LMHCA, also resigned to start a private practice. In addition, Kaitlin Powell, LMHC, was out on maternity leave for the birth of her son, but returned on a part-time basis for a few weeks before transitioning back full-time. We were able to recruit a former intern, Katelyn Lee, LMHCA, initially part-time and Mrs. Lee transitioned to full time hours in July. Serenity Now continues to recruit for therapists; however, there is a shortage at this time. Hopefully the clinic will be able to host interns in the Spring and Summer semesters of 2022. Hosting interns previously has proved to be a good recruiting source.

Hoosier Uplands hosted Ethics training for our providers. This is required annually and due to Covid, it was determined that it would be wise for staff to avoid an open seminar. As a result, we reached out to the presenter and she was able to provide the training in person for our staff. It was held at the Stonegate Education Center and was well received.

Looking forward, it is anticipated that we will continue to provide telehealth services on some level as it has been a useful tool and proven to be a benefit or treatment to some of our clients. We will continue to recruit for providers as the surge in need for mental health treatment continues.
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

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

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
## Community Services Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Energy Assistance</td>
<td>$2,094,002.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Weatherization</td>
<td>$191,369.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP CARES ACT</td>
<td>$401,727.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Energy Weatherization</td>
<td>$216,074.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services Block Grant *</td>
<td>$307,414.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vcetren Share the Warmth</td>
<td>$14,627.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Helping Hand Program</td>
<td>$51,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income Various Properties</td>
<td>$2,349,914.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD Housing Counseling</td>
<td>$17,998.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEP Health &amp; Safety Home Repair</td>
<td>$29,929.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 8 Housing</td>
<td>$1,697,564.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke and Vectren Weatherization</td>
<td>$20,756.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSBG CARES ACT</td>
<td>$162,894.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHLB AHP New Horizon Apts</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHCD Water Program</td>
<td>$181,461.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSBG D Transportation Program</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,036,829.00 35%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Area Agency on Aging Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FSSA Older Americans Act</td>
<td>$727,036.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSSA Older Hoosier Funds</td>
<td>$33,968.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSSA CHOICE Program</td>
<td>$575,662.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management Services</td>
<td>$1,088,969.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Admin/ Intake</td>
<td>$161,957.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid Vaccine Program</td>
<td>$53,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSSA Social Services Block Grant</td>
<td>$183,198.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSIP Food Program</td>
<td>$24,819.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHIP Counseling</td>
<td>$8,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,856,709.00 12%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Children’s Services Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; Early Head Start</td>
<td>$3,861,307.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Rescue Plan &amp; Covid Relief</td>
<td>$429,774.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Food Program</td>
<td>$164,052.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Century Learning</td>
<td>$450,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,905,133.00 21%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Health Care Related Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Care &amp; Hospice</td>
<td>$3,677,401.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin County Health Department</td>
<td>$85,865.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choices Helping Abstinent Teens</td>
<td>$73,982.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISDH WIC Martin County</td>
<td>$117,945.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISDH TB Contracts</td>
<td>$296,875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind Tobacco Prevention &amp; Cessation</td>
<td>$153,340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Night</td>
<td>$11,369.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choices Program</td>
<td>$165,517.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgVETS Grant</td>
<td>$271,754.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHO Program</td>
<td>$97,929.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Health Education Center</td>
<td>$345,179.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU School of Medicine Student Placement</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serenity Now Psychiatric &amp; Counseling</td>
<td>$988,762.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brighter Future for Families</td>
<td>$86,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teen Pregnancy Prevention</td>
<td>$216,880.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby and Me Tobacco Free</td>
<td>$74,779.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,675,877.00 29%</strong></td>
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## Miscellaneous Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Department</td>
<td>$27,907.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Cash Donations</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Opera House-Revenue</td>
<td>$13,652.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Mini Grants Awarded</td>
<td>$32,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development &amp; Improvement</td>
<td>$482,655.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety and Improvement</td>
<td>$49,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smithville Foundation</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old National Bank Foundation</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Hanson</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way South Central Indiana</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Safety Program</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Growth Council</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoosier Uplands Scholarship Program</td>
<td>$18,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington County Community Foundation</td>
<td>$35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$718,614.00 3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRAND TOTAL** $23,191,162.00 100%

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**Financial Report**

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David L. Miller  
Chief Executive Officer

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**HOOSIER UPLANDS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT - 18**
These businesses, organizations and individuals supported Hoosier Uplands with in-kind services, volunteer time, and/or cash donations in 2021.

**Our Major Partners in 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedford Office Supply</th>
<th>Lawrence County Local Coordinating Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedford Public Library</td>
<td>Martin County Board of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Franklin/Ace Hardware</td>
<td>Martin County Commissioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue River Services – WIC Offices</td>
<td>McDonald’s - Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mitchell</td>
<td>Military One Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dare to Care Food Bank</td>
<td>Mitchell Chamber of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Energy</td>
<td>Mitchell Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar and Roberta Mulzer Foundation</td>
<td>Mountjoy, Chilton and Medley LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Social Service Administration</td>
<td>North Lawrence Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Home Loan Bank - Indianapolis</td>
<td>Old National Bank Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German American Insurance</td>
<td>Orange County Community Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Education and Training</td>
<td>Orange County Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoosier Hills Credit Union</td>
<td>Orleans Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Criminal Justice Institute</td>
<td>Redemption Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Department of Health-IDOH</td>
<td>Michael Robbins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Department of Education</td>
<td>Salem Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority - IHCDA</td>
<td>Shoals Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Limestone</td>
<td>Smithville Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU School of Public Health</td>
<td>Springs Valley Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University School of Medicine</td>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul - Loogootee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Emery Prentiss Fund</td>
<td>US Department of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Circuit Court</td>
<td>US Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Community Foundation</td>
<td>Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Economic Growth Council</td>
<td>Vectren Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Emergency Management</td>
<td>Vincennes University Nursing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Tourism Commission</td>
<td>Washington County Community Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Cement Company</td>
<td>West Washington School Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Gate Crane Technology Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members of the Board - 2021

Representing Crawford County
Sharon Mitchell, Low-Income Sector
Billy Joe Walker, Low-Income Sector
Mary Alice Brown, Public Sector
Greg Tacone, (Chairperson)

Representing Lawrence County
Sara Luallen, Low-Income Sector
Angela Turpin, Low-Income Sector
Martha Fields, Private Sector
Greg Taylor, Private Sector
Charlotte Speer, Public Sector
James Oswalt, Public Sector
Nancy Miller, Public Sector (alternate)

Representing Martin County
Suzanne Brown, Low-Income Sector
Gerald Montgomery, Low-Income Sector
Herman Campbell, Low-Income Sector
Janie Johnson, Private Sector
Rosalee Winingier, Private Sector
Vicky Bauernfiend, Public Sector
Don Bowling, Public Sector
Stacey Bowling, Public Sector (alternate)

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
Ronnie Pennington, Private Sector
(Alternate)

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 - 2021

Aging and Disability Advisory Council
Lisa Crane
Marietta Hager- Vice Chairperson
Lynn Jeffries
Eileen Lambdin
Jan Newlin-Chairperson
Janice Pendegrass

Head Start and Early Head Start Policy Council
Representing the Bedford Center—Colleen Jackson and Korbyn Kline
Representing the Loogootee Center— Melinda Grow and Ludemia Burgess
Representing the Mitchell Center— Katelynn Runyon and Whitney Melton
Representing the Paoli Center— Jammi Patton and Apryl Kidd
Representing the Salem Center— Crystal Jensen
Representing Early Head Start— Dorian Young and Elizabeth Fields

Representing the Community:
Lawrence County— Christy Wintczak
Martin County— Noel Harty
Orange County— No Representative this year
Washington County— Rhonda Mills

Hoosier Uplands Board Liason
Janet Harrison
Agency Staff Recognized

“With 10 years or more of service”

Congratulations

48 Years
Margaret Staggs

46 Years
Ola Faye Hammond

41 Years
Debbie Coleman

34 Years
David Miller
Trudy Wells

33 Years
Cindy Bailey
Debbie Beeler
Suzanne Coleman
Chris Johnson
Debbie Terry

32 Years
Cindy Bradley
Ginger Knight

31 Years
Annette Gilliland
Kris Mathews
Jenni Snow

30 Years
Vanessa Lumley

28 Years
Cheryl Boone
Karen Cooper
Irene Ervin
Amy Hopper

27 Years
JoDeana McNabb
Angelia Owens

26 Years
Diane Budd
Donna Skeen

25 Years
Addie Datish

23 Years
Glenda Duncan

22 Years
Melissa Jeremiah
Linda Tarr
Natalie Powell

21 Years
Debbie Guthrie
Alverta Hart
Michelle Diane Short

20 Years
Julia Albright
Kim Hall
Jill Jones

19 Years
Amy Alcorn
Connie Griego

18 Years
Maria Banks
Brandon Hall
Shawnna McDonald
Theresa Pate
Deanna Porter

17 Years
Michael Edwards
Karianne Hopkins
Jennifer Rutherford

16 Years
Joanie Evans
Amber Harty
Barbara Weber-White
Lori Williams

15 Years
Angelica Hackler
Angela Stewart

14 Years
Carol Baker
Diana Kidwell
Crystal Tincher
Sheila Tritle

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

12 Years
Laura Dougherty
Tom Gibson
Rhea McClintock

11 Years
Rebecca Ashley
Whitley Clements
Sherri Mathies
Shelia Ratliff
Juanita Sneed
Mary Wingler
Andrew Wolber

10 Years
Jerry Albertson
Martina Nicholson
JR Robling
Organizational Chart
2021

Board of Directors
David L. Miller
Chief Executive Officer
Angelia Owens
Assistant to the CEO

Health, Education & Aging
Michael Edwards
Director
Health, Education, & Aging

Children’s Services Division
Debbie Beeler
Director
Children’s Services

Community Action Programs
Amanda Wolfe
Director
Energy Assistance Program
Water Assistance Program
Community Services Block Grant

J.R. Robling
Director
Weatherization Program

Amy Hopper
Director
Housing & Family Services

Budget Counseling
HUD Housing Counseling
Housing Choice Voucher Program

Natalie Powell
Director
Community Housing Development

Aspen Meadows Apartments
College Hill Apartments
Eagle Place Apartments
Larkin Apartments
Lost River Place Apartments
Midtown Suites
New Horizon Apartments
Persimmon Park Apartments
Phoenix on The Square
Springtown Apartments
Stalker Apartments
Stonecutters Place Apts.
Taylor Apartments

Health Services
Melissa Jeremiah, RN
Director
Home Health Care & Hospice Services

JoDeana McNabb
Director
Accounting Services
Home Health & Hospice

Dianna Ragsdale
Director of Operations

John Eckard, M.D.
Director
Serenity Now
Psychiatric & Counseling Services

Haley Maranda
Administrative Supervisor

Tom Trent
Lead Therapist

General Services
Eric Zink
Chief Financial Officer

Debbie Coleman
Director, Human Resources

Ginger Knight
Director, Administrative Services
Coordinator of Scholarship Program

Andy Wolber
Alan Rutherford
IT Department

Gary Rayhill
Mitchell Opera House Manager

Danny Baker
Director of Maintenance

David L. Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Shawnee Development Corporation
Aspen Meadows Apts., Shawnee Apts., LP
Lost River Place Apts., LP
Pioneer Creek Apts., LP
Springtown Apts., LP
Stalker Apts., LP
Stonecutters Place Apts., LP

College Hill Apartments, LLC
Eagle Place Apartments, LLC
Hoosier Uplands Holdings LLC
Lost River Place II LLC
Phoenix on the Square LLC
Community Development Prog.

*240 employees

Effective: 12/08/2021