

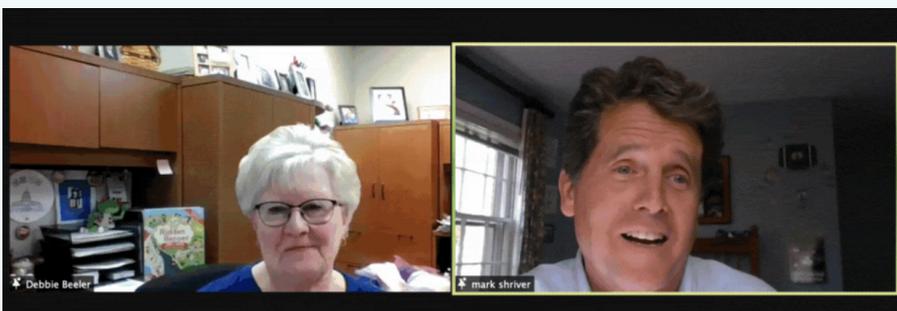
HOOSIER UPLANDS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Head Start & Mark Shriver

On April 21st, Debbie Beeler emceed a session for the National Head Start Association's annual training conference with Mark Kennedy Shriver to talk about his new book *10 Hidden Heroes*. In the book, Mark points out the various ways children and adults can be real-life heroes in their everyday lives.

Mark is the son of Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver and brother to Maria Shriver. Mark's father, Sargent Shriver, was the architect of the Head Start program and his mother, Eunice, founded Special Olympics.



Mission Statement

The mission of Hoosier Uplands, is to plan, implement or cause to be implemented, and provide comprehensive services to the poor, elderly, and disabled. The corporation strives to alleviate poverty, improve living conditions, and provide access to health care and social services to those families and individuals in need within our service area. All endeavors are 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.

Mitchell Opera House

Mitchell Opera House fans, we have some exciting news! Although we don't plan to host any inside events for a couple of more months, we are partnering up with the City of Mitchell to provide another outdoor concert series at the shelter house by City Hall, 406 South 6th Street. We want to keep you safe and still provide opportunities for local entertainment.

For this event series, we will be taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of all patrons! We will ask that you bring your own lawn chairs for the event and stay at least 10 feet away from others that are not in your group. If you leave your area for any reason, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. This will also be a smoke-free and alcohol-free event and a great opportunity for a night of family friendly entertainment.

Upcoming Events include:

- Lily Comer – Outdoor Concert Series! May 1 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Cody Ikerd & The Sidewinders – Outdoor Concert Series! May 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Tayla Lynn - Loretta Lynn's Granddaughter - Outdoor Concert Series! May 15 @ 6:00 p.m.



Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance is still accepting applications through May 14th. Maybe you or someone you know always pays their electric or gas bill on time but may struggle with other expenses; help on the utilities could free up money for those expenses. Do you have retired parents with limited income that haven't heard of the program? We will gladly send them an application, just email us their address. You can also check out our website at www.hoosieruplands.org for information on how to apply. It is really easy and applications are kept confidential.

For those of you that may be unfamiliar with the program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded Block grant offered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). 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). In Indiana, this program is known as the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). Hoosier Uplands administers this program in Lawrence, Martin, Orange and Washington Counties. For program questions, please contact:

Amanda Wolfe

awolfe@hoosieruplands.org

Director of Energy Assistance

812-849-4457 or 800-333-2451

Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance

The Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program is designed to decrease evictions, increase housing stability, and prevent homelessness by helping renter households whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with rent and utility assistance.

IERA can provide you with up to 12 months of rental assistance. Qualifying applicants may also receive utility and/or home energy assistance. This includes help with paying past due utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash) and home energy (fuel oil, wood, coal, pellets, and propane) expenses along with internet assistance for past due expenses.

Please contact Amy Hopper at ahopper@hoosieruplands.org with any questions.

Creating Lasting Family Connections

Creating Lasting Family Connections is a new program that is designed for any family seeking to improve communication, increase emotional health, or become educated about substance abuse prevention. The program will consist of five modules: Getting Real, Raising Resilient Youth, Developing Independence and Responsibility, Developing Positive Parental Influences, and Developing a Positive Response.

The program consists of two separate classes. One class will consist of parents or guardians, and the other will be for youth 9-19 years of age. The youth will be separated into groups based on their age, to ensure they will be a part of age appropriate conversations. A free meal will be provided for all participants before the class begins. Families will be able to receive a \$50.00 gift card after completing the program.

The program will be over 10 weeks, with two sessions each week. We will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., and the sessions will be held in the Stone Gate building in Bedford, Indiana. The first cohort is projected to meet in May of 2021.

There will be a virtual programming option for those concerned about COVID-19. However, we do encourage participants to participate in person if they are able. All COVID-19 restrictions will be followed through the program.

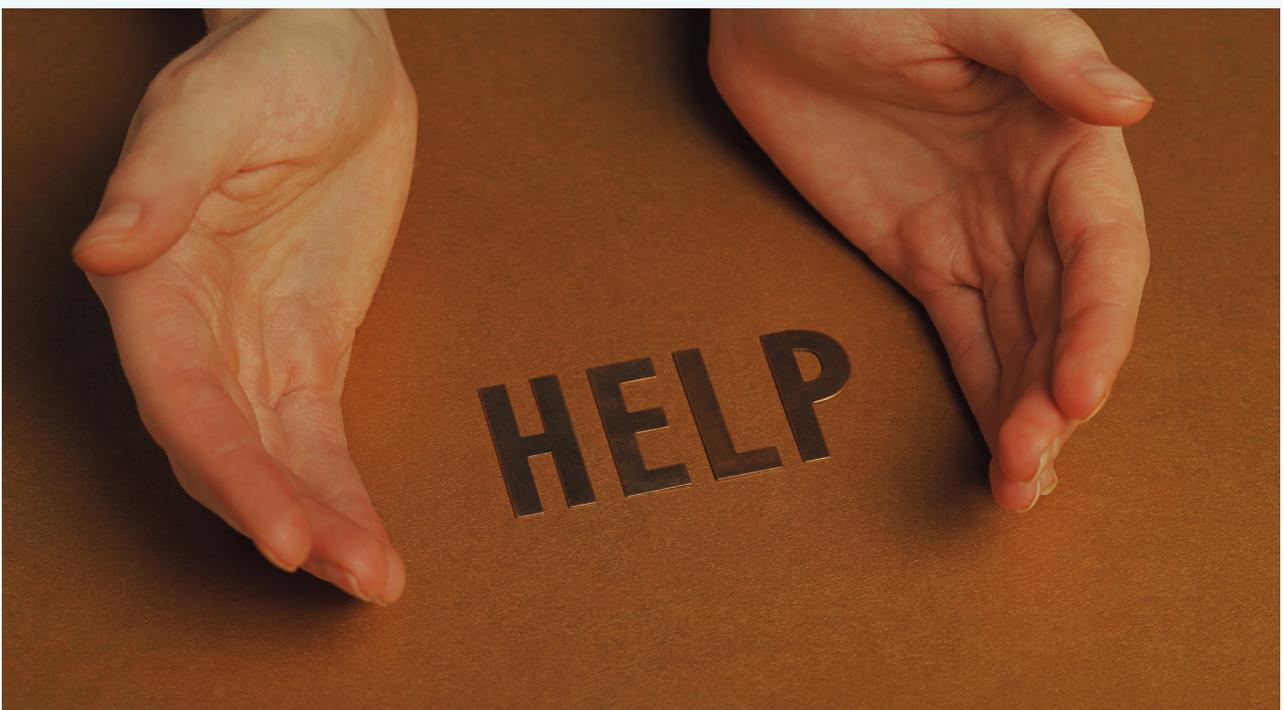
For more information, please contact Savannah Kidwell at:
skidwell@hoosieruplands.org.



Client Assistance Programs

Hoosier Uplands has received Community Services Block Grant funding from the CARES act for a variety of services to help those in need through the COVID-19 pandemic. One way that this funding will be used at Hoosier Uplands is to help clients with emergent needs to get back on their feet. If you have a client who is struggling through the pandemic due to job loss or another financial strain due to COVID-19, they may qualify for this program. Clients must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and may qualify for up to \$1,500. Similar funding is available through funding that Hoosier Uplands has received from the Lawrence County Community Foundation that is just for Lawrence County residents. Funding for both projects is limited, but please reach out to one of those listed below if you have questions about the program or have a client in need.

If you have a client in need that might qualify, you may refer them to Amy Hopper in Housing, Kris Mathews in Head Start, or Amanda Wolfe with Energy Assistance. Amy and Kris are located at the main office: 812-849-4447 and Amanda is located at the 521 office: 812-849-4457.



Employee Highlights

Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE, Director of Operations, Hoosier Uplands Home Health Care & Hospice, as part of her National Association for Home Care & Hospice/NAHC Board of Directors duties was selected to serve on the Governance and Nominating Committee, Executive Evaluation and Compensation Committee; and the Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee.



Congratulations to Hayley Maranda a therapist at Serenity. She passed her test to be a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor.

Congratulations to Alex Muhlbach on her new position as Program Manager within the Strategic Development Division as well as the Health Education and Aging Division.

