



The Voice Indianapolis

September

September 2016

SPONSORED BY: THE CREATIVE CHANGE PROJECT

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome!

By: Us

The Voice, a newsletter by the homeless voices of our community.

Welcome back to another issue of "The Voice." Like always, if you have missed any of our pervious issues click the following link to our website and find them there (www.creativechangeproject.com). On the Home page of our website you will see a designated box for the newsletters, click, and you are there.

The purpose of this newsletter is to raise awareness and educate the general public on real homeless issues and the truth about living homeless.

Our hope is that we can persuade readers to facilitate or attend a Cultural Competency Presentation which will profoundly change the way you view homelessness.

We hope you enjoy our work!

What's INSIDE this ISSUE

Welcome

In The News: (pg 2-3)

"100k Payout to Homeless women by Social Security"

Special Thanks To: (pg 4)

Gleaners Food Bank

Conversations Around Homelessness: (pg 5-7)

"Police Reform vs. Policing Reform"

Statics on Homelessness: (pg 8)

Estimates of Homeless People 2014

My Homeless Experience (Alumni): (pg 9)

M. Johnson

Next Cultural Competency: (pg 12)

Saturday, December 10, 2016

Next Homeless Experience: (pg 13)

Friday, October 28, 2016

Up Coming Events



Police reform vs. Policing reform. (Page 5)



My Homeless Experience
A Homeless Experience – "Testimony"
(Page 9)



"Homeless Women receives 100k from Social Security"
(Page 2)

IN THE NEWS!

“\$99,999 Payout to Homeless Woman Highlights Social Security’s Struggles”

By: Mariam Khan,
ABC News
(August 24, 2016)



Wanda Witter, 80, who up until last week was homeless and living on D.C.’s streets, has received \$99,999 in Social Security retirement benefits, but she could be just one of many people owed cash because of the “tangled mess” at the Social Security Administration, according to the social worker who helped her.

“Wanda’s story has been told. But there are a lot of other people in Wanda’s position,” said Julie Turner, who works for the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, a nonprofit group that helps D.C.’s poor, low-income and homeless communities.

“When I first started this job, I actually had clients that died in shelters without ever receiving their benefits,” Turner said in an interview with ABC News. She said she has worked for the

Downtown Cluster of Congregations since 1987.

Inaction by the government, she said, is “forcing another can of cat food on elderly people.”

“You could write books on this thing,” she said.

Turner helped Witter win a lengthy battle against the Social Security Administration, [according to The Washington Post](#), which first reported Witter’s story.

Witter spent years trying to get someone at the Social Security Administration to listen to her, carting around suitcases with all the paperwork she needed to prove her claims.

“She was owed money, lots of money, and could prove it,” the Post wrote.

But agency bureaucracy and her status as a homeless woman kept Witter from the money she was owed, according to the Post, which also noted she was referred to mental health workers and therapists and went unheard for years.

Problems at the Social Security Administration inevitably affect the country’s most vulnerable, Turner said.

“People who are homeless remain homeless, and people remain disabled if they’re disabled,” she said.

Her view is backed by a [recent report](#) by the nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) that highlights the strain the agency is under, detailing the effects of rising

workloads, funding cuts and disability payment backlogs.

The report states that the core operating budget has shrunk by 10 percent since 2010 and that demands have reached an “all-time high as the baby boomers have aged into their peak years for retirement and disability.”

These budget cuts forced the agency to impose a hiring freeze in 2011, which led to a deterioration in its phone service, according to the report. In 2016 the average caller can expect to spend over 15 minutes on hold, and nearly 10 percent of callers will receive busy signals.

The cuts also affected field offices: 64 field offices and 533 mobile offices have closed since 2010, and hours for staff have been reduced at the remaining offices, according to the report. Last year, field staffers assisted 41 million visitors, and field offices received 28 million calls. Before the budget cuts, more than 90 percent of applicants could schedule an appointment within three weeks, but by 2015, fewer than half could, the report states.

The backlog of pending cases, which includes appeals from

those who have been denied benefits, has grown by over 50 percent since 2010, topping 1 million in 2015, according to the report.

“The hearings backlog has a high human cost. Waiting a year and a half for a final decision, as a typical appellant does, causes financial and medical hardship. Some applicants lose their homes or must declare bankruptcy while awaiting a hearing. Their health often worsens; some even die,” the report states.

“Dealing with the Social Security Administration is a very, very difficult system to manipulate. It’s not user friendly,” Turner said, especially for “poor and homeless people who don’t have access to computers.”

She added, “These are systemic obstacles for homeless people trying to get their benefits.”

But the Social Security program is supposed to work. According to the report, it’s one of the nation’s most popular and effective programs, because it provides a foundation of income on which workers can build for their retirement.

About 59 million retirees, disabled workers, survivors and

their families receive these benefits each year, a number that has grown by 6 million in the past five years, according to the report.

But the Social Security Administration’s troubles have left some social workers like Turner worried.

“The country is getting ready to change administrations in the next few months, but I don’t hear anyone but [Bernie Sanders](#) or [Elizabeth Warren](#) talking about Social Security,” Turner said, referring to senators from Vermont and Massachusetts, respectively.

Turner, to protect client confidentiality, wouldn’t comment on Witter’s case but acknowledged her determination.

“It took a village for this case, but a lot of it was Wanda and her willingness and tenacity and her ability to really dig deep. You can’t do any of this without a client that’s willing to work with you.”

The Social Security Administration did not respond to ABC News’ request for comment.



3737 Waldemere Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46241
(317) 925 - 0191



The faces of hunger, reflected in thousands of our neighbors, come in many forms. It's the single mom working two jobs trying to make ends meet, or the child who cannot concentrate in school because of an empty stomach. It is the retired grandmother raising her grandchildren or the brave military veteran who can't find adequate employment. Hunger can happen to anyone and the crisis isn't getting any smaller.

Gleaners is leading the fight against hunger in Indiana by distributing food to more than 250 partner agencies in 21 Indiana counties: food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

We also provide direct services to those struggling with hunger, through programs such as BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids, School-Based Pantry, C.A.R.E. Mobile Pantry, and Community Cupboard.

For more information contact: <https://www.gleaners.org/>



HOMELESS FACTS

80%

Eighty percent (80%) of our homeless population suffer from mental health issues.

60%

Sixty percent (60%) of the homeless population have jobs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



“Police Reform vs. Policing Reform”

By: Ronald L. Davis, Director

Policing in the United States is unique in that it is neither centralized, as is the case in many countries, nor does it fall under the direct control of the Federal Government. Each of the approximately 18,000 local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies in the nation falls under the control of a local governing body, executive, or elected official(s). Local control is arguably one of the key characteristics that makes the American policing system unique. It is also the characteristic that presents the greatest challenge to establishing standardized ethical and professional practices within a system few deny is in need of reform.

Yet the discussion of police reform seems to focus primarily on individual officer behavior

and ignores the operational systems that have an even greater impact on policing outcomes. The great management guru William Edward Deming captured this notion through his 85/15 rule, which says that 85 percent of the problems in any organization are system-related while only 15 percent are worker-related.

Rank-and-file officers do not decide organizational policies and practices. Nor do officers establish hiring standards or have the power to administer discipline. They also do not decide whether an agency embraces crime-reduction strategies that result in racial disparities. Yet when disparities or other systemic problems do occur, rank-and-file officers are quickly demonized and blamed for those outcomes.

There is no question that rank-and-file officers must be held accountable for their actions. However, if the systems in which they operate are flawed, even good officers can have bad outcomes.

If we are to achieve real and sustainable reform in law enforcement, our focus must shift from the police (those individuals sworn to uphold the law) to policing systems (the policies, practices, and culture of police organizations). And through reform, our policing systems must identify not just the roles and responsibilities of the police but the roles and responsibilities of the community as well. After all, communities are a vital part of the policing system. In the words of Sir Robert Peel, the founder of modern law enforcement, “The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on

every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.”

To separate the community from the policing system is akin to separating patients from the health care system or students from the education system. Indeed, even the best teacher cannot help a student who refuses to study. Nor can a doctor cure a patient who refuses to take prescribed medication or to follow the doctor’s orders. The same applies to policing. The level of community involvement in the policing system and the level of personal responsibility each community member assumes by cooperating or collaborating with the police greatly impact the outcome of the system. Focusing on the policing system does not ignore or excuse the misconduct of individual police officers. To the contrary, the stronger the policing system, the more likely bad officers will be identified and removed from service. The stronger the policing system, the more likely the culture of police organizations will reject officer misconduct and embrace accountability and transparency. And the stronger the policing system, the more likely recruitment and hiring practices will focus not only on hiring diverse, qualified candidates who reflect the communities they serve but also on hiring candidates who see themselves as members of that community.

As a veteran police officer with almost 30 years of experience serving communities in Oakland and East Palo Alto, California, I feel optimistic about the future of the American policing system.

The reason I have faith in a positive future for American policing, even amid a growing chasm of distrust between the police and many



communities, is that I see firsthand the outstanding work the vast majority of dedicated men and women in law enforcement do every day. I see them take great efforts to identify the best ways to serve their communities. And I see evidence that many communities, even those that feel the most disenfranchised, yearn for a stronger relationship with the police. People in neighborhoods all across the country are working diligently and in collaboration with the police to make sure their communities are treated fairly not only by the law enforcement officials who are sworn to serve and protect them but also by the policing systems in which those officers operate.

We are at a defining moment in American policing history. Our collective efforts to meet the challenges we have faced over the past few years have opened a unique but very small window of opportunity—a window through

which both police and the communities they serve see the need for policing reform and recognize the necessity of working together to achieve success.

The [Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#) provides a roadmap for this reform. The task force report outlines 59 recommendations that, when implemented, will result in positive changes in the American policing system and organizational transformation within individual law enforcement agencies.

It is my hope that law enforcement officials across the country not only will read the task force report but will also use its insights, information, and recommendations to reform the policing systems in their own departments.

Let's not waste this unique opportunity on bickering and finger pointing. Instead, let's forge ahead together to reform the American policing system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Affecting change is never easy, but as President John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

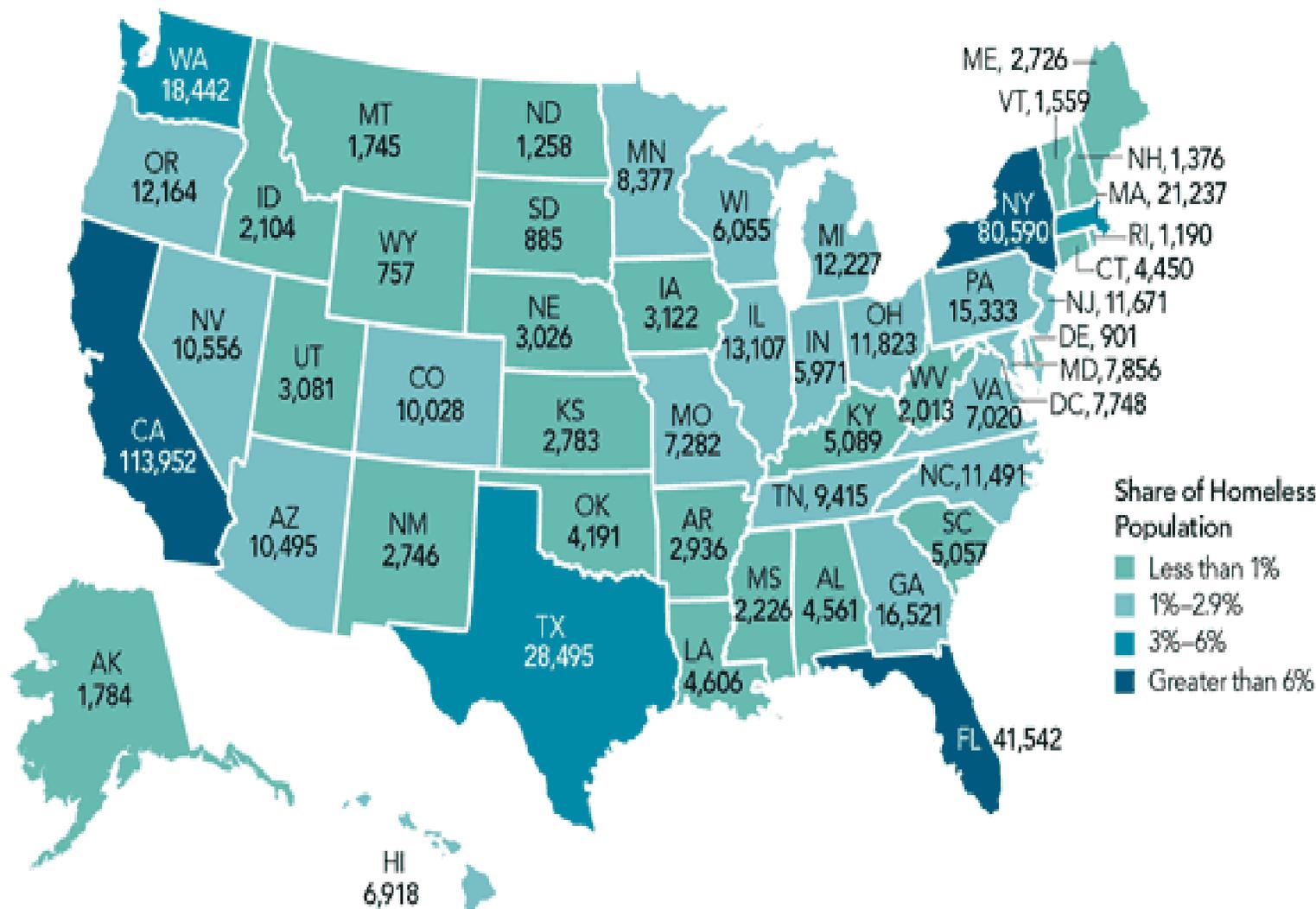


CHARTING THE WAY:

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness (2014)

Estimates of Homeless People

By State, 2014



The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. **Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years).** Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Homeless Experience – Alumni

By: M. Johnson

As a Christian, I was intrigued with the idea of living among the homeless for a weekend. Being taught every Sunday to love our neighbors and give to the poor, I really felt compelled to do this homeless experience. Furthermore, my friends and I have had the “Jesus was homeless” conversation many times, therefore I thought this would be a great opportunity to literally walk as Jesus walked. That is, to see and experience the world from the place of pure humility.



Naturally, I prayed about it and during my morning devotion I found this passage of scripture in the bible, “So then, since Christ suffered physical pain in his body, you must arm yourself with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, also” (1Peter 4:1). After I meditated on this verse for a couple of days, I was then convinced that I was ready to suffer but certain that the suffering couldn’t be longer than a weekend right now, so I signed-up for the homeless experience.

Arriving at the gathering location downtown Indy, I found the meeting and greeting of the other participants very interesting. There were people participating from all walks of life, professionals and non-professionals, Christians and non-Christians. This was amazing. All of us had come together for one common thing – understanding more about the homeless and how they survive on the streets. In our group we had an elementary school teacher, a lawyer, a pastor, a truck driver, a business owner, two college students, a day care worker and a pharmaceutical sales person.

As we engaged in the homeless lifestyle, it was interesting to see how the different people in our group responded to various situations. For instance, I believe we were all challenged with sleeping in the alley that first night. There was a consensus among us regarding the value of four walls, a roof and a locked door. Something we all had become super comfortable with and depended upon. In contrast, we learned that same night (through observation) that the homeless found safety and security in sleeping in groups. The more people sleeping in the group the more the comfort level went up for all the sleepers. This was one of many lessons learned during this weekend experience.

FREE HEALTH INSURANCE

**No Job?
No Address?
No Income?**

NO PROBLEM

No Health Insurance?

HiP2.0

HEALTHY INDIANA PLAN™
Health Coverage • Peace of Mind



**Are you homeless?
We can help!**



Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage



**Bring:
1. IDENTIFICATION**

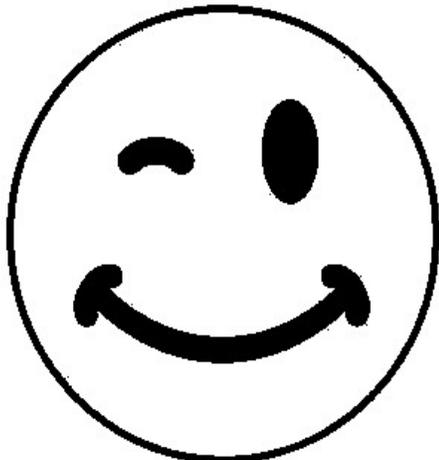
**WEDNESDAY'S @
CENTRAL LIBRARY
10:30am**

Homeless Graphic Art



Check out our Facebook page to see more: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Creative-Change-Project/303593586466151>

a bit of Humor....





What do you really know about Homelessness?

Cultural Competency PRESENTATION

December 2016

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



SATURDAY



December 10, 2016



NORA BRANCH

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

8625 Guilford Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Presenter: Maurice Young, Homeless Advocate



FREE LUNCH!



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cultural-competency-presentation-tickets-27491088586>

P1

The **HOMELESS** **EXPERIENCE**



DATE: Friday, October 28, 2016

TIME: 5pm Friday (Begin) – 2pm Sunday (End)

LOCATION: Downtown Indianapolis

**WALK
A MILE
IN MY SHOES**

Have you ever wondered what it's really like to be homeless and live out on the streets? Come see firsthand the situations that homeless individuals face daily by "Walking a Mile in my Shoes." This new program will allow you to:

1. Engage with the homeless of our community
2. Meet those who serve the homeless community
3. Acquire knowledge regarding the growing crisis of homelessness and
4. Become aware of the public's attitudes towards people who are homeless

Space is limited, so visit our website to sign up for this rare experience. A general itinerary is listed on our website for preview.



UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Expungement



Second Chance Law Information Session September 7th 2016 12:00pm - 3:00pm

This workshop is designed for Hoosiers with a criminal history to receive information about having their record expunged. Individuals who attend will participate in a workshop / discussion about the Second Chance Law. Attendees may have the opportunity to speak with Indiana Legal Services (ILS) Staff.

If you would like to meet 1:1 with ILS Staff after the Presentation Please bring the following:

Indiana State Police Limited Criminal History

Go to 100 N. Senate Ave with \$7.00 Money Order to obtain copy.

Driver's License and List of Addresses

Driving record and list of addresses available at www.mybmvc.com. You will need your Driver's License number.

Chronological Case Summary (CCS)

Go to Room W122 in the Marion County City County Building to obtain a list of your cause numbers from Marion County. Go to each individual court room from the list to obtain a copy of your CCS. Check the last page of your CCS for any outstanding fees that have not been paid. If you lived in or were arrested in any other counties in Indiana, case information can be obtained from that County Court.

To Reserve a Seat Contact Nick Calvert at 317-808-2348

Ncalvert@jhbcenters.org – Seating is Limited!



Topics

**Expunge / Seal Eligible
Non-convictions & Arrest**

**Expunge/Seal Eligible
Misdemeanor & Felony Convictions**

**Meet with Indiana Legal Services Staff
One-on-One**

Lunch Provided

LOCATION:
JOHN BONER NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS
2236 East 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN, 46201
www.jhbcenters.org
317-633-8210

UPCOMING EVENTS

H.O.P.E. TEAM MONTHLY MEETING



Join Us!

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016
(11am)**

MLK Community Center

**40 W. 40th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208**



Host: Allison Luthe, Executive Director
(317) 923 -4581

Founder: Kim Boyd, President
klb2600@gmail.com



Helping **O**thers **P**rosper **E**conomically

The *hope.*
TEAM

UPCOMING EVENTS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WHAT DO YOU CALL HOME?

The Avondale Meadows & Pike YMCAs invites all out for a Community Dialogue **FREE Community Event**

WHAT: The community is invited to come out and join in a dialogue about the impact of homelessness, veterans and poverty in Indianapolis.

WHEN: September 13, 2016
2-5PM

WHERE: Avondale Meadows YMCA
3980 Meadows Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

GUEST SPEAKER:

Maurice Young is a homeless Indianapolis native who has dedicated himself to promoting awareness of homelessness and the need for change regarding the mistreatment of those who call the streets home. In addition to our guest speaker there will also be a panel discussion.



For more information and to register please contact the Avondale Meadows YMCA at 317.549.9622 or register by following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-dialogue-impact-of-homelessness-in-indianapolis-tickets-27151895049>

UPCOMING EVENTS



2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY FISH FRY



WHEN: Saturday, September 24, 2016

WHERE: 414 W. Vermont Street (parking lot)

TIME: 11:00am – (Until the Food is gone)



Come and join us, Circle City Classic Weekend, for a **FREE** Fish Fry and awesome fellowship with our Homeless Neighbors here in downtown Indy.

Sponsored by: Solid Word Bible Church

UPCOMING EVENTS



Greetings,

I'm writing to invite your organization to our Open House session that will be held Friday Sept.30th 2016 at 2:00pm located at our offices at 222 E. Ohio Street suite 300. We are looking for more organizations and companies like yours to join forces with the national Job Corps program to *transform the community and the lives of youth*. Independence Job Corps an all female Non-Residential Training Center.

JOB CORPS is the nation's oldest and largest federally funded job training and education program for **low income out-of-school youth ages 16-24**. Established in 1964, Job Corps has trained and educated more than 2 million young people to date, serving approximately 60,000 young adults each year.

Training and Education. Students receive hands-on training in America's fastest growing careers, and our graduates land high-wage jobs in more than **100 occupational areas** such as: health occupations, construction-related fields, culinary arts, business and technology-related industries. Students can also participate in on-the-job training at real work sites through work-based learning opportunities. In the academic classrooms, students can earn a high school diploma or high school equivalency, and learn employability and independent living skills. **Job Corps is a drug and alcohol free program.**

Mutually beneficial collaborations means that we work together to meet the needs of out-of-school youth in your area. By doing so, we can develop a safety net for today's youth to increase their long-term success and employability.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to provide a brief overview of the national Job Corps program including the services and benefits that **Indy Independence Job Corps** women receive. Please RSVP via email to confirm your company/organizations attendance by Friday September 16th 2016.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I sincerely hope that your organization will join us so that together we can *transform the lives of youth!*

Sincerely,

Aleanya Moore

UPCOMING EVENTS

You are invited to Save the Date for...



The 2016 IU-SOC Open House

DATE: Saturday October 8th 2016

TIME: 1-3 pm

LOCATION: Indiana University Community Outreach Clinic at
Neighborhood Fellowship Church
3102 East 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201

RSVP: Appreciated but not required to promotions@iu-soc.org

Come have a bite to eat, learn more about our organization, meet our wonderful volunteers, and find out how you can help further our mission!



The IU Student Outreach Clinic is a free clinic started by students at the IU School of Medicine in the Near Eastside's Neighborhood Fellowship Church in 2009.

We now offer an array of services through partnerships with the Butler University College of Pharmacy, IU School of Social Work, IU School of Dentistry, IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Krannert School of Physical Therapy at University of Indianapolis, IU School of Nursing, and Timmy Global Health at IUPUI.

student run ■ powered by volunteers ■ learn more at soc.medicine.iu.edu

Don't forget!!!



<http://indy26aug.wix.com/hand-of-hope>



CreativeChangeProject.com

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [CCP](#)

Homeless Resource & Services

"The world is beautiful outside when there is stability inside"



FREE MEALS



FOOD PANTRIES



SURVIVAL GUIDE



SERVICES

The purpose of this site is to share resources and services with those advocating for individuals transitioning "in or out" of homelessness. We need your help to keep this guide current. If there are agencies to be added or removed, information updates or changes, please contact us at indy26aug@gmail.com. Or call (317) 762-5890. Thanks!



The
Voice
Indianapolis

Downtown Indy
Indianapolis, Indiana
46204



CreativeChangeProject.com



The Creative Change Project
125 W South Street, #2927
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206