

In This Issue

News

NEWS

[Go Inside the Statehouse every Friday](#)

COMMUNITY IMPACT

[SUCCESS STORY: Mr. Tislow is able to stay in his home, thanks to new furnace](#)

[SUCCESS STORY: Heat for the holidays](#)

[SUCCESS STORY: Client finds hope and dignity with support of TRI-CAP](#)

[Hoosier Uplands helps residents with suspended driver's licenses](#)

[Donations, grants allow CAAs to extend help during tough times](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSIONALS

[NWICA hosts first virtual conference with huge success](#)

[Mark your calendar for these upcoming trainings](#)

[INCAA network has access to national Community Action round-up newsletter](#)

BRIEFLY

[In case you missed it: Twitter chat on #paidleave](#)



Go Inside the Statehouse every Friday

Mark your calendar for every Friday at 1 p.m. Eastern Time, from now until April 30, and plan to join the Inside the Statehouse Zoom call, hosted by [Indiana Institute for Working Families](#).

The live, weekly "Inside the Statehouse" forum includes discussion about what's happening in the Indiana legislature. It's your chance to ask questions and find out what bills are affecting working families.

How to Join

- **By computer**

- <https://tinyurl.com/InsideTheStatehouse2021>
- Meeting ID: 824 9092 1012
- Passcode: 830377

- **By phone.** Note: Copy and paste the entire one-tap mobile access keys (from the + at the beginning to the # at the end) into the URL field on your mobile-calendar event description. At the time of the call, simply click on the link to be automatically connected via phone.

- [+13126266799](tel:+13126266799), [82490921012](tel:+182490921012)#, [*830377#](tel:+1830377) US (Chicago)
- [+16468769923](tel:+16468769923), [82490921012](tel:+182490921012)#, [*830377#](tel:+1830377) US (New York)

{ [return to top](#) }



**Share
Your News**

Next issue deadline:
FRIDAY, FEB. 12, 2021

To submit an article, send information or news release, plus photo (if possible) to:
news@corcommcreative.com

Community Impact

SUCCESS STORY

Mr. Tislow is able to stay in his home, thanks to new furnace

[Pace Community Action Agency](#) client Mr. Tislow was at risk of having to move out of his home if he didn't get a heating system...fast.

Automatically notify us of important news

Add the email address news@corcommcreative.com to your media releases and/or email newsletter distribution list, so we will be automatically notified of important news from your agency. Thank you!

"He had nothing at all other than a stove (to heat his home), which wasn't really safe or reliable," says Joe Jennings. Jennings Refrigeration worked with Pace to provide and install a new, energy-efficient furnace.

After his wife passed away a few years ago, Tislow had been receiving help from his niece, but he was unable to afford a new furnace. When he and his niece found out about the Emergency Repair and Replace (ERR) program within the Energy Assistance Program at Pace, they were excited and relieved.

Because of the furnace installation, Tislow is able to stay in his home. "I'm glad we got the furnace. It does a good job," said Mr. Tislow. "Thank you."

[Watch a short video of this story on Facebook.](#)

At right: Mr. Tislow received a new furnace from Pace, with the help of Joe Jennings, right, of Jennings Refrigeration.



{ [return to top](#) }



SUCCESS STORY

Heat for the holidays

Melinda Arnold's furnace stopped working on Christmas day. An evaluation revealed that the furnace was malfunctioning and leaking carbon monoxide into her home, shown above. It was disconnected for safety reasons, and she was forced to heat her home with kerosene heaters.

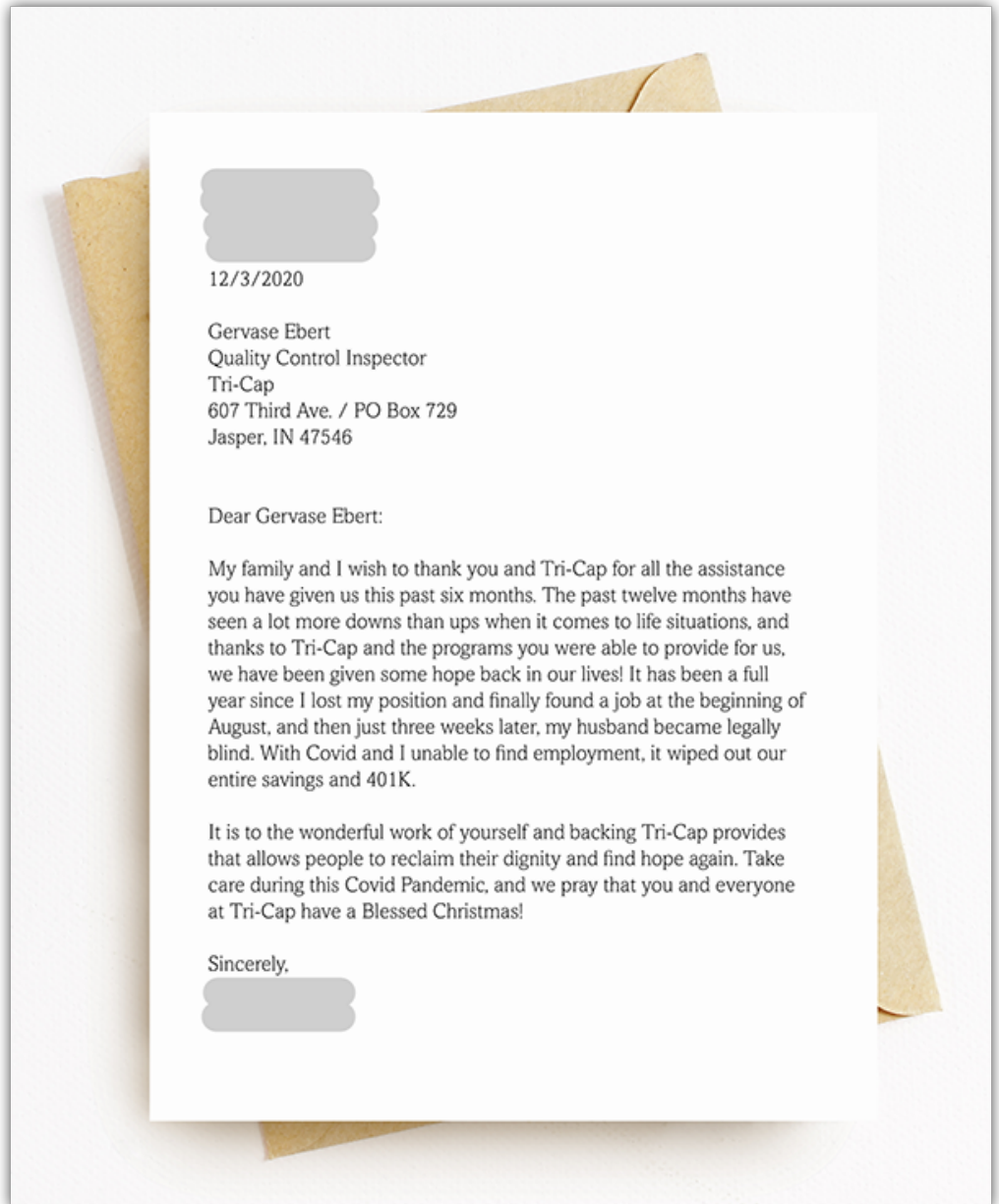
Melinda had applied for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits through [Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action](#). Area IV building analyst and quality control inspector Mike DeVore went to Melinda's home and again evaluated the heating system. He located several cracks in the heat exchanger part of the unit, rendering it unsafe. He contacted a heating technician, who (despite COVID-19-related shortages of various types of furnaces) was able to locate an appropriate furnace in Indianapolis.

Using Emergency Repair and Replace (ERR) funds, part of the Energy Assistance Program, Area IV was able to purchase and install the new furnace in Melinda's home. She is now happier, warmer and safer in her home.

{ [return to top](#) }

SUCCESS STORY

Client finds hope and dignity with support of TRI-CAP



{ [return to top](#) }



Hoosier Uplands helps residents with suspended driver's licenses

[Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation](#) has partnered with Grant Law, PC, to provide a program called "Drive to Remove Roadblocks." The program is for citizens in Lawrence, Orange and Martin Counties.

The goal of this program is to provide free, needs-based legal services to citizens who have suspended driver's licenses. Grant Law will work to remove the barriers they face in obtaining valid drivers' licenses or obtain specialized driving privileges, by evaluating clients' driving histories, determining if remedies exist, then working to help seal or expunge their criminal histories. This effort requires significant time with the clients, research, and lawyering to effectively advocate for the client to achieve the expungement.

Restoring driving privileges removes real-world barriers to maintaining or obtaining quality employment and housing. It allows citizens to compete fairly and on equal footing in the job market, and gives them an equal opportunity to access better housing.

The community benefits from the program through having citizens who can obtain and/or improve employment, thereby helping to increase their own self-sufficiency.

To qualify for the program, clients must meet a financial requirement: Being at or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, based on family size.

The project is funded through Hoosier Uplands' local funding.

{ [return to top](#) }



Donations, grants allow CAAs to extend help during tough times

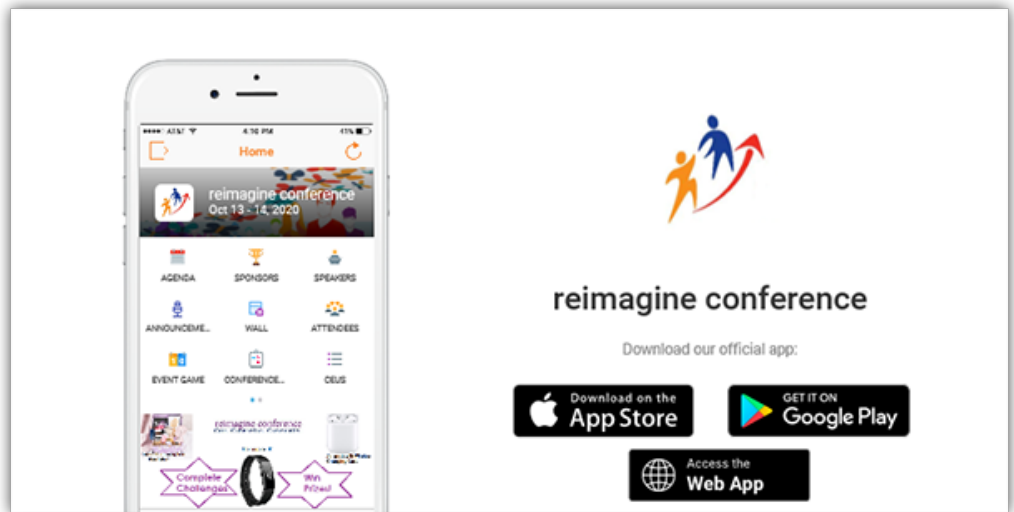
Several Community Action Agencies received grants and donations throughout December and early January. These funds allow CAAs to expand their community impact, and each recipient wishes to

thank the generous companies and organizations for their support.

- **Pace Community Action Agency, Inc.** has received funding from the **Knox County Community Foundation** to provide assistance for families that have been impacted by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Brightpoint** was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the **St. Joseph Community Health Foundation** to support and expand the capacity of the Language Services Network, a network of nonprofit language-service providers devoted to the enhancement of interpreting and translation services in the Fort Wayne area.
- **Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana**'s Chris Sheetz was awarded a \$5,000 donation from **Alliance Bank** to benefit the Benton County Food & Service Co-op. [Watch a video of Chris talking about the founding and mission of the co-op.](#)
- **TRI-CAP** received a \$5,000 grant from **Pike County Community Foundation** for healthcare navigation services in the county. Pike County Community Foundation has been the leading partner in helping TRI-CAP keep the service in Pike County. It has provided grant funds for the program in the past, as well.
- **TRI-CAP** received a \$52,000 grant from **Dubois County Community Foundation** to fund two years of healthcare navigator services in the county.
- **Brightpoint** has received a \$72,000 grant through the **Youth Program Resilience Fund of Lilly Endowment, Inc.** The funds will be used to support the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) youth program.
- **Brightpoint** received a combined \$140,000 in donations and matching funds for its Covering Kids and Families (CKF) program during the third quarter of 2020. The money is used to provide families in Northeast Indiana free assistance in accessing healthcare. It thanks the following organizations for their support: **Covering Kids and Families of Indiana, K21 Health Foundation, English-Bonter-Mitchell Foundation, Kosciusko County Community Foundation, 3 Rivers Credit Union Foundation, Community Foundation of Whitley County, and Wells County Community Foundation.**

{ [return to top](#) }

Spotlight on Professionals



NWICA hosts first virtual conference with huge success

[Northwest Indiana Community Action](#) hosted its second annual — and first 100% virtual — Reimagine conference with huge success late last year.

The conference, originally set for June, was postponed due to the pandemic.

Anna Schoon, VP of planning and business development and conference lead, said, "It was a very difficult decision to make [to postpone the conference], but we knew that keeping our attendees, speakers, supporters, and staff safe was our top priority."

It gradually became clear that a large, in-person event was not likely to happen in 2020, so Ms. Schoon and the planning team began to think of possible alternatives. Major concerns arose: Would

our sponsors back a virtual conference? Would the speakers be comfortable behind the screen as opposed to having a live audience? Was there enough time to prepare?

After a few months, some anxiety, a lot of research, multiple calls and planning days, and plenty of sales pitches; a virtual platform and vendor were selected. An Indianapolis-based company, Socio, was able to provide the virtual exhibit hall, help track attendance for CEUs, set up and organize the event, train moderators, and create social-networking games for attendees.

One of the objectives of the Reimagine conference is to foster resiliency. This experience provided the opportunity to adapt, change plans, be flexible and explore other possibilities — some of the very ways we can build resiliency in ourselves and help others learn to build resiliency.

Many of the speakers who had previous engagements or travel concerns were now available for the virtual conference, which boasted 20 expert speakers from across the nation.

The keynote speaker was [Dr. Joanne Klevens](#), who worked in public health for almost 40 years, in violence prevention for 30 years, and with the CDC for almost 20 years. At the CDC, she conducted or collaborated in research on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent child maltreatment, partner violence, and youth violence. Her session presented the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and explained the mechanisms through which ACEs lead to risky health behaviors, chronic and infectious diseases, learning problems, and diminished life opportunities.

Other sessions and breakouts included moderated film screenings of 'Resilience' and 'Broken Places' and timely sessions on 'Homelessness as Trauma in the Black Family' and 'ACEs in the workplace.'

Despite the postponement and the virtual nature of the conference, NWICA delivered an excellent, engaging, and informative conference. In fact, it will be hard to top it next year!

NWICA leadership was so impressed with the content that access to the recorded sessions was made available to all NWICA staff members with the hope that the knowledge gained from viewing the sessions would support staff's ability to provide strong customer service and gain understanding of the unique needs of many of our community members.

Save the date for the third annual conference! It will be held Oct. 12 and 13, 2021.

{ [return to top](#) }



Mark your calendar for these upcoming trainings

These trainings and more are coming soon from the [Indiana Training Institute](#). They are available to members of the Indiana Community Action Network. Click on the training name to be directed to registration.

Jan. 29, 2021

[How to Be the Leader Your Agency Needs Today](#)

During this webinar, leaders will learn about the 4 phases of disaster recovery, which one we're in now, and how they can continue leading their people to meet their needs now and in the future.

Feb. 12, 2021

[Working One Quarter at a Time: Tools to Stay Nimble and Adaptable as a Team and Organization](#)

During this webinar, leaders will learn both the mindset it takes to adjust quickly and practical tools to manage the work during the year ahead.

{ [return to top](#) }

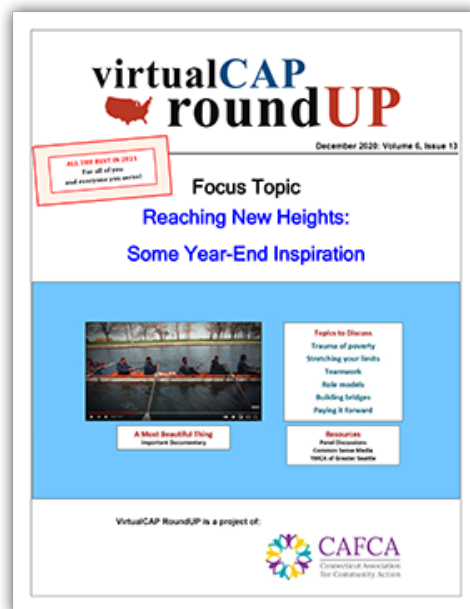
INCAA network has access to national Community Action round-up newsletter

As a member of the Indiana Community Action Network, you have access to national newsletter that covers Community Action Agency (CAA) news from around the country.

The [VirtualCAP RoundUP newsletter](#) is a unique resource produced by Connecticut Association for Community Action. Each issue includes a special focus topic, as well as short articles on successful CAA funding initiatives, innovative CAA programs, Community Action news and more. Links are included for source material and useful resources. Issues are published online and available as PDF downloads.

You can find the newsletter at virtualcap.org. To receive your agency's username and password, simply email ken@cafca.org and provide your name, job title and email address.

In the meantime, [take a peek at the December issue](#) (accessible without a password).



"RoundUP energizes our staff and we can't wait for the next issue to arrive! Great information about the innovative work of CAAs that helps advance our agency."

Testimonial from CAA executive director

{ [return to top](#) }

Briefly

Above: State Representative Chris Campbell shared this infographic in response to the Institute's question #7: What are the benefits of #paidleave?

In case you missed it: Twitter chat on #paidleave

In December, the [Indiana Institute for Working Families](#) hosted a Twitter Q&A on #PaidLeave with State Representative Chris Campbell and surprise guest, State Senator Shelli Yoder. Their legislation would make 12 weeks of paid leave a reality for all Hoosier workers who need time to bond with a new baby or newly-adopted child, heal from their own serious medical condition, or care for a loved one dealing with significant medical need. You can find the full conversation on the [Working Families blog](#) or [on Twitter](#).

{ [return to top](#) }

Indiana Community Action Association
1845 W. 18th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
317.638.4232 or 800.382.9895 phone
317.634.7947 fax
© 2020 All Rights Reserved

[Sign Up for Newsletters](#)