



It Takes a Village



Resource Guide

Grandparents/Kinship Raising Children

In Affiliation with
First African Methodist Episcopal Church

Sponsored by Geminus – Community Partners

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Illinois Department on Aging “Starting Points for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Resource Guide with Information & Services for Grandparent Caregivers” www.state.il.us/aging

Produced by the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration, The Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services

AARP (Grandparent Information Center) aarp.org

Front Cover Picture by Khaalidah Giddens
Geminus Community Partners, geminuscommunitypartners.org

Directory of Services Information & Support Services of Wyoming Department of Family Services A Guide for Wyoming Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren

Gu.org

About Us – Community and Faith Outreach Initiative, Inc., is an outreach affiliated with First African Methodist Episcopal Church; our members represent different areas and churches in Northwest Indiana. We are reaching out to Grandparents/Kinship Raising Children in the Gary Community and surrounding areas, offering programs and activities that provide positive support for our youth, young adults, parents and grandparents. Presenting programs that focus on keeping the community physically, mentally and spiritually fit. Reuniting the Family!

Mission:

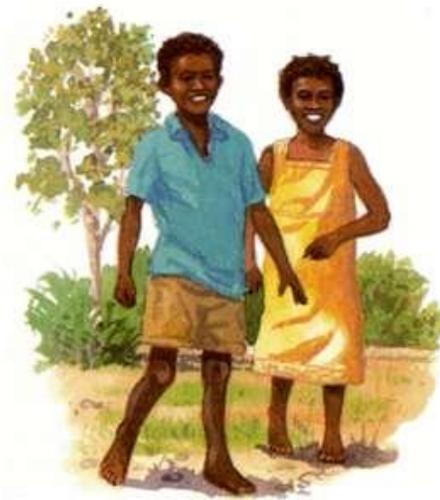
Be an advocate for Grandparents/Kinship Raising Grandchildren and other family members. Develop programs that will unite the family and draw the appropriate agencies and health care providers to one central location to provide information.

Goals:

1. Promote the family structure and safety.
2. Educate parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and children about moral issues inside and outside of the home.
3. Inform relatives of their rights and resources available to them.
4. Encourage positive health habits as: dental and personal hygiene.

Programs Available:

- Grandparents/Kinship Support Group – Every Second Tuesday of the Month
- Coming - Men's Summit - January
- History of Gary Expo “Youth Today Legends Tomorrow” – March
- Grandparents/Kinship Conference - May
- Citywide Health Fair – July
- Grandparents/Kinship Awards Luncheon – October
- Family Celebration – December



It Takes a Village

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an old African Proverb meaning that parents need help from Uncles, Aunts, Granddad, Grandma, Big Mama, and members of the community. Grandparents today have been put in the position of rearing their grandchildren, due to unforeseen circumstances, such as parent’s abuse of drugs, alcohol abuse, abandonment, incarceration, mental illness, unemployment, divorce and death, just to name a few reasons. We hope that this Resource Guild will assist you in finding the necessary assistance you need.

Parenting in the 21st Century can be challenging and finding the resources you need in the social service system can be difficult to find. In Indiana, public and private agencies and grassroots coalitions for grandparents and other relative caregivers have begun working together to expand the services available to kinship caregivers who are caring for children outside of the foster care system.

Across the United States, almost 7.8 million children are living in homes where grandparents or other relatives are the head of the house, with more than 5.8 million children living in grandparents’ homes and nearly 2 million children living in other relatives’ homes. In fact, nearly 1 million children are living in homes where the grandparent is the head of the house and neither parent is present in the home.

Grandparents lack information about the range of support services, resources, programs, benefits, laws and policies available to help them successfully fulfill their caregiving role.

1. **4.9 million children** (7 percent) under age 18 live in grandparent-headed households. That's up from 4.5 million living in grandparent-headed households 10 years ago. This increase has to do with challenges in our economy over the past five years.
2. **Approximately 20 percent of these children** (964,579) have neither parent present and the grandparents are responsible for their basic needs.
3. **1.9 million children** are living in households headed by other relatives (2.5 percent of the children in the country). This figure speaks to the fact that aunts, uncles, cousins and even siblings are also stepping in to support America's children when they need it the most.
4. **51 percent of grandparents** who have grandkids living with them are white (up from 46 percent in 2000); 24 percent are Black/African American (down from 28 percent in 2000); and 19 percent are Hispanic/Latino (down slightly from 20 percent in 2000)

For grandparents reporting responsibility for grandchildren 67 percent are under age 60, which is down from 71 percent in 2000. And 20 percent live in poverty; up from 18.8 percent in 2000.

State of Indiana - 140,919 children under the age of 18 live in homes where grandparents or other relatives are head of the households (8.8% of all the children in the state)(*U.S 2010 Census*).

- Of these 113,549 live with grandparents. (7.1 % of all the children in the state).
- 27,370 live with other relatives. (1.7% of all the children in the state).
- Of the 54,998 grandparents that reported they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them, 20,565 have no parents present in the home.

Gary, Indiana - 4,679 Grandparents are living in households with one or more of their grandchildren under the age of 18 years old and 2,749 grandparents are responsible for meeting the needs of their grandchildren on a day by day basis.

How grandparents may feel and react to raising their grandchildren will vary widely depending on their health, their financial situation, and what other plans they had for their lives. It can be very difficult because they love the children they are parenting and would never want to put them in harms way. They may also feel that if they had done a better job as parents raising their children, they wouldn't be doing it all over again with their grandchildren. So as grandparents, our feelings have us all stressed out with everything mixed in together.

But help is on the way!!

To God Be the Glory!!

Strategies for Coping When Raising Grandchildren

The decision to rear your grandchildren under any circumstance cannot be taken lightly. To assume this responsibility—regardless of the age of your grandchild or the ages of your grandchildren if there is more than one—means an enormous change in your lifestyle. Knowing that you’ll be doing the right thing for your grandbabies will help you to cope—even when the going is rough. There will be times when you will feel overwhelmed, but remember: **You are not alone!**



Some situations might be very different. Grandparents and other kinship parents may be raising children because of the death of a parent or because a parent is in the military and unable to have their children with them. This is becoming more common every day with devastating results.

Some grandparents are raising children on an informal basis with no legal arrangement. This can cause many problems when it comes to enrolling children in school, obtaining medical and mental health services, and providing a secure and stable environment for children.

Other grandparents have obtained the legal status necessary to safely and properly take care of the grandchildren but have often spent many thousands of dollars in legal fees in the process. Many even dipped into their retirement programs, took out second mortgages on their homes, and paid legal fees with credit cards. This does not happen in all cases but in many.

Whatever the situation, one thing is clear our lives have changed with the addition of someone else's children. The change may bring happiness or sadness but there is a change. With that change, comes stress! Understanding the stress and finding proper ways to deal with it is vital for our own emotional and physical health as well as for the health of our children.

You will have Emotional ups and downs, but with your faith in God you can make it through anything. Listed below are some of the Emotional Ups you may go through,

Faith that your grandchildren’s lives will be stable and sound

Satisfaction in knowing you are making a better life for your grandchildren

Comfort in knowing your grandchildren are safe with you

Gratification in knowing you are making a difference in your grandchildren’s lives

Patience to cope with yourself and your grandchildren

Courage to take on the responsibility of parenting (and it is a big responsibility)

Inspiration that comes from hearing your grandchildren say, “I love you”

Gain in personal satisfaction knowing you are strong enough for this task
Sense of Order when things go right
Happiness that you made it through another day
Pride in yourself and your grandchildren for persevering through tough times
Compassion in your relationships with your grandchildren, their friends and others
Hope that the situation will get better

And emotional downs....

Denial of the current situation—unrealistic expectations that the responsible parents will become
Fear of how you will be able to financially and emotionally care for your grandchildren
Guilt thinking you should have or could have done things differently with your own child
Anger at your child for abandoning or not being a responsible parent
Sacrifice in order to keep your family together
Loss of the grandparent-grandchild relationship, as well as peer contacts
Frustration when things don't go as planned
Sadness at the loss of a child and of the typical grandparent role
Disappointment in not being able to do the things you wanted at this stage in your life
Confusion in understanding the issues facing today's children
Embarrassment at having to ask for assistance for raising your "new family," and asking yourself, "How could my child do this to me?"
Isolation from your friends and "child free" social networks.



Keep these coping strategies in mind:

- Take care of yourself, both physically and mentally
- Eat right (this will also model good eating habits for your grandchildren)
- Get plenty of rest and exercise regularly
- Visit with your physician about any physical, emotional, or mental problems
- Seek outside help—you can't always be super-grandparents when you are also your grandchildren's parents
- Seek help from support groups in your area. (Community and Faith Outreach Infnitive Ministry has a Grandparents Support Group at First AME Church.)
- If there are no support groups, consider starting one.

It is very important for grandparents to receive support and assistance. Seeking out other family members, clergy, support groups, and social agencies can be helpful.

How Can Support Groups Help?

Support groups:

1. offer emotional support to grandparents who feel alone and isolated.
2. create a network of grandparents who are in caregiving situations.
3. offer guidance, assistance and advice to grandparents in their efforts to care for their grandchildren.
4. give grandparents ideas on formulating positive solutions to difficult and challenging problems.
5. serve as a clearinghouse for resources and information.
6. offer a safe, understanding place for grandparents to discuss the emotional ups and downs of raising their grandchildren.
7. provide tools for advocacy and awareness of issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.



Child Development

Children are unique individuals. They think, look, act, and grow in different ways. This is part of what makes them so special. The Ages and Expectations chart has been developed to give examples of what you might expect at certain ages. Talk to your medical professional about your grandchild's development. Children may have been exposed to emotional or physical traumas, or prenatal conditions that could make their development and behavioral patterns different from other children their own age.

Many grandparents raising their grandchildren are concerned they lack the knowledge and ability it takes to raise a child. Some grandparents (and relative caregivers) may be parenting for the first time in their lives. Others may have been away from the role of parent for so long that they do not remember or simply do not know the latest "ins and outs" of parenting today. Things change—new technologies, ideas and practices affect the ways we raise and care for our children.

Some grandparents have not had to think about developmental, health, and safety needs of children for many years. Things have changed since their own children were children. New parenting practices, laws, and technology all affect the way parents rear and care for children today. These are all issues that grandparents raising grandchildren need to become educated about, so that they can do the best job possible for their grandchildren.

Disabilities:

Children who are being raised by their grandparents may have been exposed to emotional or physical traumas, or to prenatal conditions that make their development and behaviors different from typical children their age. These are developmental issues that grandparents may have to cope with right away

so that the child (or children) can get the necessary help from early intervention services or special education resources. All toddlers should have the “One Before Two” screening which is done free of charge by the Child Development Centers statewide. Child Development Centers will also screen children ages three to five at no charge.

Substance Abuse:

If your grandchildren have been exposed to harmful substances (drugs and alcohol) either before birth or after birth, there is reason for concern about their typical development, but there are programs and services which can help you. Ask about such services at your local Child Development Center or local schools.

Health:

If you are worried about your grandchild’s health, see your family physician or pediatrician for a checkup. Another option is to visit or call your local public health nurse for a checkup and for help with referrals for your grandchild, if necessary. The public health office can also advise you about vaccinations for your grandchild. Some kids have more medical needs than others. They might wear glasses or braces on their teeth. They may have to see doctors more often because of a serious health condition. Some will need help coping with the changes taking place in the family. All these health services cost money. How will you pay for them?

Insurance:

There are several places to go for help. Medicaid is a program that pays health care expenses for people with low incomes. Your grandchild may qualify to receive benefits from this program. If not, he or she may be able to get benefits from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Each state has a program like this. These programs pay for doctor’s visits, hospital stays, shots, and medicines. Most programs don't look at a grandparent's income when they decide if the child should get help. Obtaining health insurance for your grandchildren is important. If you are still working and you have health insurance through your work, ask about dependent coverage for your grandchildren in your custody. To apply for Medicaid for your grandchildren, you will need to prove that you are their primary caregiver, the children do not have parental care, proof of your grandchildren’s ages, their relationship to you, and their current living arrangement. You do not need to have legal custody of your grandchildren for them to receive Medicaid.

Safety:

Your home and surroundings may no longer be “child-proof,” so it will be necessary to make them safe environments for infants, toddlers, and children once again.

- Small objects can be deadly if swallowed. Keep objects like pins, coins, beads, etc. away from children.
- Cribs need to have snug-fitting mattresses and bumper pads. Crib slats need to be narrowly spaced, and no cords or strings (including curtain and blind pulls) should be near the crib or bed.
- Children should never play with plastic bags.
- Keep all cleaning supplies, chemicals, medicines, and matches on a high shelf or in child-proof cabinets.
- If firearms are kept in your home, be sure they are locked up and left unloaded.
- Smoke detectors should be installed and batteries replaced twice a year.
- Plan escape routes and hold practice fire drills so children know how to get out of the house in an emergency and where to meet you outside.
- Children should never be left alone in the bathtub, in wading pools, or in a vehicle.
- Children should always wear helmets when riding bicycles or scooters; in addition, mouth guards and wrist and knee pads need to be worn when using skateboards or rollerblades.
- By state law, children must be secured in a vehicle with proper safety seats and restraints.
- Without making children overly frightened, we must teach them personal safety. We live in a world where children must understand that not all people are trustworthy and they need to be cautious around strangers. Children need to know their full name, address, (including state and zip code), and phone number (including area code). If your residence is their new address, be sure they know this new information.
- How to use the telephone to call an operator or to dial emergency numbers.
- Never to enter a stranger's car or home for any reason.
- How to use a "code" word that only you and they know in case you need to have someone else pick them up. This would prove that the person is safe for the child to go with.
- They are safer playing and walking with friends and to avoid isolated and poorly lit areas.
- They are not to leave the yard or wander away while shopping with you.
- They are to tell you if something uncomfortable or strange has happened to them.
- They are not to tell information about themselves except to approved persons.

Child Care, School, and Educational Needs

Child Care:

If you are a working grandparent, you may have to find suitable child care for your grandchildren. Assistance in paying for child care may be available if you are working or attending school. Contact your local Department of Family Services office for more information. Various types of childcare are available in most communities:

- In-home care where the caregiver comes to your home;



- Exempt home care where providers may care for two children in addition to their own in the provider's home (not licensed by the state)
- Family child care homes/centers where care is provided in the caregiver's home, but there are more children and an assistant or second provider (these must be licensed by the state);
- Child care centers where care is not in a private home, but in a larger facility with many children and several assistants or providers (these are licensed by the state).

Talking to other grandparents and parents is a good way to learn more about the childcare providers in your area. If you are employed, ask your employer about programs to help you with your child care needs. You may also be eligible for earned income tax credit (EITC) on your income taxes. (Log on to www.aarp.org/contacts/grandparents/taxtips.)

Head Start:

Head Start programs generally provide free half-day school-year care for eligible low-income children ages 3 – 5. Some programs also provide full-day, year round programs. Grandparents may have to prove legal guardianship of their grandchildren in order to enroll them in a Head Start school. Some communities have pre-kindergarten programs that help prepare children for kindergarten. Check with your local school district for detailed information.

School and Educational Needs:

You'll need to contact your local school district to find out where your grandchildren will attend school, and then you'll need to take the children to the register. To register your grandchildren, you'll need:



grandchildren school(s) to

- ❖ proof of guardianship
- ❖ their birth certificates (for kindergarten)
- ❖ immunization records
- ❖ school records, if the children have been enrolled in another school
- ❖ proof of residency

As soon as possible, get to know your grandchildren's teacher(s), and inform them that you are raising the children. Make every effort to have open communication between you, your grandchildren, and the school. Try to attend parent-teacher conferences.

First Steps to Take

A checklist of initial steps will help grandparent caregivers avoid difficulties as they navigate the legal, educational and medical systems, if you find yourself unexpectedly thrust into the role of caregiver.

This guide provides a checklist to assist you in gaining the authority and access you will need to care for your grandchild.

If you are not in an emergency situation, this guide offers suggestions of steps you should take in advance of a crisis, as well as a glimpse of the steps you will need to be prepared to take once you become the primary caregiver. Your local Department of Family Services can help to facilitate family partnership meetings to support families who are making decisions regarding the care of minor grandchildren.

- ❖ Gather family members and discuss who will be responsible for your grandchild legally and financially. Also consider who will make medical and educational decisions for your grandchild. If possible, do this before an emergency requires immediate decisions.
- ❖ Decide where the child will live, or who will have physical custody. This is not always the same household as that of the legal guardian.
- ❖ As a family, make your decision and have it made legally enforceable. You can do this by hiring an attorney who specializes in guardianship or whose practice is family law, have custody or guardianship papers drawn up. If this is not something you can afford, you can inquire about legal services including pro bono or sliding-scale rates based on your income level.
- ❖ In the event of a parent's death, obtain a copy of the death certificate, the last will and testament, if one exists, and/or any other legal documents that indicate the designation of a preferred guardian. Contact the Social Security Administration about survivor benefits. Call 1-800-772-1213, or log on to www.ssa.gov.
- ❖ Notify your grandchild's school of the situation. Be sure to have the child's records altered to reflect any change in custody.
- ❖ Consider medical coverage as well as services—will a change in custody alter the child's insurance coverage? If you can't provide coverage, consult DFS about alternatives. Medical records will need to reflect any change in custody—do this early to prevent possible problems in an emergency.
- ❖ If there is a living parent who will not be assuming custody, you may be able to file for child support. Consult DFS or your attorney for more information.
- ❖ Consider practical and emotional support for you and your family.
- ❖ Think about the possibility of securing a durable power of attorney to authorize you to make legal decisions for the child.

- ❖ Obtain a medical release which gives you permission to seek medical help for your grandchildren.

Answers to Basic Concerns



What documents do I need?

Make a binder or folder where you keep all of these important papers so you can easily find them when you need them.

You should have:

- Birth certificates, death certificates (if your grandchild's parent is deceased), marriage records or divorce decrees for their parents
- Social Security cards (or at least the numbers) for the children
- Medical and dental records
- Power of Attorney, custody, guardianship, adoption or other legal papers
- Consent forms signed by parents for medical care and education
- School papers, such as report cards, evaluations, registration, etc.
- Proof of your grandchild's income and assets (child support payments, trust fund, etc.)
- Proof of your income and assets (if you apply for public benefits, you'll need these)
- Citizenship papers for you or for your grandchildren
- Military papers for you or their parents

What phone numbers I do I need?

You should make a phone list of all the local people and agencies you will work with as you raise your grandchild. Keep this list in your notebook or folder, and post a copy near your phone.

Include:

- Emergency numbers (911, poison control, etc.)
- Grandparent support groups and resource centers
- Family members and friends who can help
- School, child care or preschool
- Doctors
- Dentist
- Counselors, social workers, therapists
- Babysitters or respite care
- Before/After school programs
- Youth activity programs (YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Scouts, mentoring programs etc.)

- Community organizations such as community centers and faith-based organizations
- Children's services or child welfare office
- Area Agency on Aging

What is available?

In Indiana there are several programs that offer financial assistance to needy families and children, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and more. Contact your local county Office of Family and Children to determine which programs you may qualify for.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Used to be known as AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) or welfare, provides monthly assistance to families with children under the age of eighteen who do not have financial support from one or both parents due to death, absence from the home, unemployment, or mental/physical incapacity. It is also possible to receive assistance for a child or children only. Benefits are accessed with a Hoosier Works card. The card replaces paper checks and works much like a bank debit card. The whole family may qualify for assistance.

What is a child only grant? A child-only grant means that you receive cash assistance for a child which is not your natural son or daughter. The grant you receive each month is based on the number of children that you take care of and does not include the number of adults in the family. Because the grant you receive is only meant for the care of the child, it is usually less than the cash value of the grant that you would receive if the whole family was receiving TANF benefits.



Financial Assistance

Who is eligible?

In order to receive TANF, you must meet the eligibility requirements. These requirements are based on the number of eligible family members and total income of the parent(s) or caretaker. This requirement is also used to determine how much assistance you will receive each month. There are some other requirements depending on whether you want TANF for your whole family or a child-only grant. In order for the family to receive TANF, when you apply, the family can't have assets that are worth more than \$1,000. Your house is not counted as an asset.

What information do I need in order to apply?

There are several pieces of information that you will need when applying for TANF:

- Proof of the family or the child's income. This includes income that comes from jobs, child support payments and social security. Proof of income includes tax return forms or pay-stubs.
- Social security card or number for everyone applying for TANF.
- Proof that the child is living with you.
- Proof that you are a resident of Indiana.
- Proof that you are related to the child. This can be done with birth certificates or other legal documents.
- Proof of the child's citizenship. If the child is not a United States citizen, you will need some proof of the child's immigration status.

Food Stamps

The Food Stamp program assists eligible low-income individuals in obtaining a more nutritious diet by increasing food purchasing power through the Hoosier Works Card. Benefits are accessed with this card, much like a bank debit card. The Hoosier Works Card replaces paper food stamp coupons. Your income and household size will determine the cash value you will receive each month.

I am not the child's legal guardian. Does that matter?

No. You can still apply for TANF even if you are not the child's legal guardian and do not have legal custody. If you are applying for a child-only grant, you must be a "specified relative." This means that you need to be related to the child and responsible for his/her care.

Are there limits with TANF?

Yes, there are limits on the amount of benefits that you can receive from TANF. These limits depend on whether your whole family is using TANF or if you have a child-only grant.

I want my whole family to get TANF.

- For adults, you can only receive 24 months of assistance at a time. However, after the adults in the family no longer receive TANF, the children in the family can still receive TANF.
- The adults in the family must participate in the IMPACT (Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training) program while they are receiving TANF. IMPACT helps people become able to take care of themselves financially by helping with education, training, job searching, and job placement. This means that, in Indiana, you must be employed or looking for work in order to receive TANF.

- You should keep in mind that not all adults are required to participate in the IMPACT program. To find out if you are exempt, contact your local Bureau of Family Resources. A case manager can talk with you about your situation and tell you if you are exempt from IMPACT.

How Do I apply?

In order to apply for TANF, you will need to call your local Bureau of Family Resources and complete an application. When you call, be sure to tell them whether you want TANF for your whole family or a child-only grant. They will schedule an appointment with you and will tell you what you need to bring. If you have questions about eligibility, contact your local Bureau of Family Resources. You can find the location of your local office by looking in the Government section of the phone book or www.in.gov/fssa. A case manager can talk with you about your situation and tell you if you are eligible for TANF.

I want a child-only grant.

- ❖ There are no time limits for child-only grants.
- ❖ You can receive child-only assistance until the child turns 18.
- ❖ There are no work requirements for the adults that care for the child.

In order to be eligible for a child-only grant, the child must be living with an ineligible parent or a specified relative.

Who is eligible?

In order to receive food stamps, you must:

- ❖ Be a resident of Indiana
- ❖ Be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant
- ❖ Participate in the IMPACT program
- ❖ Meet asset and income requirements.

If you have questions about eligibility, contact your local Bureau of Family Resources. You can find the location of your local office by looking in the Government section of the phone book or www.in.gov/fssa. A case manager can talk with you about your situation and tell you if you are eligible for food stamps.

I am not the child's legal guardian. Does that matter?

No. You can apply for SSI for a child without having legal custody or guardianship. If you are caring for the child your income and resources are not counted. Only the child's income and resources are counted.

How do I apply?

To apply for SSI contact the Social Security Administration Office at 1-800-772-1213 or visit the local office. A representative will talk with you about your situation and assist in completion of the application. Internet filing is available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

How do I apply?

In order to apply for food stamps go to your local Bureau of Family Resources. The case manager at the office will help you complete the application.

What information do I need in order to apply?

- ❖ Proof of income for ALL family members. This includes income that comes from jobs, child support payments and social security. Proof of income includes tax return forms or pay stubs.
- ❖ Social security card or number for everyone in the household.
- ❖ Proof of residency. This includes utility bills that show your current address.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays a monthly benefit to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Blind or disabled children, as well as adults, can get SSI.

Who is eligible?

Anyone who is:

- ❖ Aged (age 65 or older);
- ❖ Blind; or
- ❖ Disabled

And who:

- ❖ Has limited income and resources; and
- ❖ Meets other requirements that include US citizenship or certain categories of non-citizens.



The physical or mental disability must be severe enough that you cannot perform substantial gainful activity. The disability must also be severe enough that it is expected to result in death or last for at least a continuous period of 12 months.

REMEMBER!! The child cannot receive both TANF and SSI. You must pick one. The SSI benefits tend to bring more money, but, you and the child will lose Medicaid coverage.

I am not the child's legal guardian. Does that matter?

No. As long as your family meets the eligibility requirements, you can get food stamps. However, the **WHOLE** family must apply for food stamps. You cannot apply just for the child.

What information do I need in order to apply?

- ❖ Proof of the child's citizenship. If the child is not a United States citizen, you will need some proof of the child's immigration status.
- ❖ Proof of blindness or disability.
- ❖ Proof that you are caring for the child.
- ❖ Information about doctors, hospitals and clinics that have treated the child.
- ❖ Social security card or number for the child.
- ❖ Proof of the child's age. This is usually the child's birth certificate.

Children

In order to receive SSI, a child must:

- ❖ Be under the age of 18;
- ❖ Blind; or
- ❖ Disabled; and have
- ❖ Limited income and resources.



The physical or mental disability must result in marked and severe functional limitations. The disability must also be severe enough that it is expected to result in death or last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. If you have questions about eligibility, contact your local Social Security Administration (SSA) Office. You can find the location of your local office by looking in the Government section of the phone book or by calling SSA's toll-free line at 1-800-772-1213. Contact information is also available at www.socialsecurity.gov, (SSA's official Internet site). A Social Security representative can tell you if you or the child is eligible for SSI.

Contact Information

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 1-800-622-4932

Food Stamps 1-800-622-4932

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Social Security 1-800-772-1213

Area Agency on Aging 1-800-986-3505

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

(For Questions) 1-800-829-1040

(For Forms) 1-800-829-3676

Indiana State Department of Revenue

(State) 1-317-232-2240

AARP (Grandparent Information Center)

(To Request EITC Tax Package for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) 1-202-434-2296

Child Custody

What do relative caregivers need to know about de facto custodians?

In 1999, Indiana passed House Bill 1445. This bill affects child custody cases when a de facto custodian has cared for a child. A de facto custodian is a person who has physically, emotionally and financially cared for a child for a specific period of time. If the child is younger than 3 years of age, the person must have cared for the child for at least six months. If the child is 3 years of age or older, the person must have cared for the child for at least one year.

What role does the de facto custodian play in custody cases?

If the court finds evidence during a custody case that someone is the de facto custodian of the child, the court will allow the de facto custodian to be part of the custody hearings. The court will also award legal custody to the de facto custodian if it is in the best interest of the child.

Adoption

What kinds of adoption assistance are available for children with special needs?

For people who are interested in adopting children with physical or emotional problems, three programs provide financial assistance. They are the **Indiana Adoption Subsidy Program (IASP)**, the **Nonrecurring Adoption Expense Program (NRAE)** and the **County Adoption Subsidy Program (CAS)**. These programs are available in different combinations.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit program is set up through the federal government and the state of Indiana to help low-income people who are responsible for children. The program helps by reducing the amount of state and federal taxes that you owe and/or giving you money back after taxes.

Federal EITC

Who is eligible?

Indiana residents who receive the federal earned income tax credit are eligible for the Indiana earned income credit.

How do I apply?

Complete Indiana Schedule EITC and attach it to your state tax return, Form IT-40 or Form IT-40PNR. The credit may also be claimed on the short Form IT-40EZ. You can get these forms from your local Department of Revenue. You can also get forms at www.in.gov/dor/taxforms/.

Indiana Adoption Assistance Program

This program provides monthly payments and reimbursement for medical costs and other costs for people who adopt children with special needs. This program is not based on the adoptive parents' financial condition. To get more information about this program, contact your local Bureau of Family Resources. You can find the location in the Government section of the phone book or by checking the website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/children/dfc/directory/index.htm>. If you need additional assistance, the telephone number for adoption and foster care information is 1-800-468-4228.

County Adoption Subsidy

This program may include monthly payments for support of a "hard to place" child, as defined by Indiana law, or a subsidy for health care expenses related to the child's medical, physical, mental, or emotional condition. The child could be eligible for both, depending upon the order of the court. The definition of a "hard to place" child is broader than the definition of a child with special needs. To get more information about this program contact your local Bureau of Family Resources. You can find the location of your local office by looking in the Government section of the phone book



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

ABOUT HIV/AIDS and STD!

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. People who have HIV in their bodies have HIV infection, or HIV.

People may not know they have it

- HIV is a disease with many stages. People with HIV may have no symptoms, a few symptoms or many serious symptoms.
- People can have HIV for many years without feeling or looking sick. They may not even know they have HIV, but they can still pass the virus on to others.

HIV hurts the body

- Over time, HIV damages the body's immune system. The immune system protects the body from disease.
- When the immune system gets very weak, other diseases and infections can enter the body. This stage of HIV is called AIDS.

How Do People Get HIV?

HIV can be contracted through sex, sharing needles, from mother to fetus of newborn, blood-to-blood contact.

HIV lives in semen, vaginal fluids, and blood and breast milk of a person with HIV. It can be passed from one person to another through these infected fluids.

HIV can be passed:

- ✓ During vaginal, oral and anal sex
- ✓ While sharing needles and equipment to inject drugs
- ✓ By needles used for tattoos and piercing or to inject vitamins or steroids
- ✓ From a mother to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding
- ✓ From needle-stick injuries to health workers caring for people with HIV

HIV is not passed by:

- ✓ Donating blood
- ✓ Hugging, dry kissing or sharing food
- ✓ Telephones, toilet seats, towels or eating utensils

- ✓ Tears, saliva, sweat or urine
- ✓ Mosquitoes or other insects

Before 1985, some people got HIV from infected blood transfusions. Now the blood supply in the United States is tested. So the chances of getting HIV this way are very small.

Protect Yourself!

- ✓ Use a new latex condom and water-based lubricant every time for vaginal or anal sex.
- ✓ Don't use oil-based lubricants. Hand creams, massage oils, Vaseline, etc., can cause the condom to break.
- ✓ For oral sex on a man, use a new latex condom every time.
- ✓ For oral sex on a woman or oral/anal sex on a man or woman, use a barrier such as a dental dam, a latex condom cut and rolled out flat, or plastic food wrap. Use a new barrier each time.
- ✓ People who are allergic to latex can use plastic (polyurethane) condoms. These come in both male and female styles.
- ✓ Don't have sex when you're drunk or high. Using alcohol or other drugs affects judgment and can lead to unsafe sex.

The HIV Test

The HIV test looks for HIV antibodies in your body.

If you have antibodies:

- Your test results will be positive. This means you have HIV.

If you don't have antibodies:

- Your test will be negative. This means one or two things:
 - You don't have HIV.
 - You have HIV, but your body hasn't made antibodies yet.

It takes up to 3 months after infection for the body to make HIV antibodies. In rare cases, it can take up to 6 months.

What Happens In Testing?

- A health care worker takes a little blood from your arm or finger, takes cells from the inside of your cheek or gums with a cotton swab, or asks for a urine sample.
- Many test centers offer a quick test. Results take a few minutes. Positive results must be confirmed with a second test, with results in about 2 weeks.
- Other places send the sample to a lab. In about 2 weeks, you go back to get the results.

- Most test centers provide counseling to help you understand the results and learn how to prevent HIV.



WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS stands for *acquired immunodeficiency syndrome*.

AIDS is a condition in which the body's immune system – the system that fights off sickness-breaks down. Because the system fails, a person with AIDS typically develops a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

What Is The Difference Between HIV And AIDS?

HIV infection and AIDS are serious health problems. AIDS is the result of a long process that begins with HIV infection.

A person will not develop AIDS unless he or she has been infected with HIV. By preventing HIV infection, we can prevent future cases of AIDS.

How Can I Avoid HIV Infection?

Don't do drugs of any kind. Sharing needles to inject drugs can infect you. Many drugs, especially alcohol, can cloud your judgment and cause you to do things that place you at risk for HIV infection.

Delay sexual intercourse. Don't have sexual intercourse. Abstinence is the only sure protection. If you do have sexual intercourse, wait until you are in a long-term, mutually faithful relationship.

WHAT IS STD?

An STD (sexually transmitted disease) is an infection that is passed during sex.

List of STDs:

- Chlamydia of NGU
- Gonorrhea
- Hepatitis B, Herpes
- HIV/AIDS
- HPV/Genital Warts
- Syphilis
- Trichomoniasis ("Trich") of NGU

STDs Are Serious

- Some STDs infect only your sexual and reproductive organs. Others (HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis) cause general body infections.
- Sometimes you can have an STD with no signs or symptoms or the symptoms may go away. Either way, you still have the STD until you get treated.

How STD Is Spread

- STD is spread during vaginal, anal or oral sex, and sometimes by genital touching.
- Some STDs (HIV and hepatitis B) are also spread by contact with infected blood.
- STD germs need to live in warm, moist areas. That's why they infect the mouth, rectum and sex organs (vagina, vulva, penis and testes).

What to Do

Get Checked

- Don't just hope the STD will go away. It won't!
- Most county health departments have special STD clinics. Private health care providers also treat STD.
- If you don't know where to get help, call your local family planning clinic for information. Your case will be kept private.
- You may feel embarrassed about having an STD. It may be hard for you to go to a provider or clinic for help, but you must get treatment for the STD. This is the only way you will get well.

Get Treated

- Many STDs can be cured. Others cannot be cured. However, all STDs can and must be treated.
- Many STDs can be treated with antibiotics. Do exactly what your provider tells you. Be sure to use all of your medicine.
- You also must tell your sexual partner(s). If they aren't treated, they can get sick. They can spread the STD. They might even give it to you again!

What to Watch For

Many people have an STD with no symptoms. If you have symptoms, you may notice any of these things.

Women

- An unusual discharge or smell from your vagina.
- Pain in your pelvic area – the area between your belly button and sex organs.
- Burning or itching around your vagina.
- Bleeding from your vagina that is not your regular period.
- Pain deep inside your vagina when you have sex.

Men

- A drip or discharge from your penis.

Women and Men

- Sores, bumps or blisters near your sex organs, rectum or mouth.
- Burning and pain when you urinate (pee) or have a bowel movement.
- Need to urinate often.
- Itching around your sex organs.
- A swelling or redness in your throat.
- Flu-like feelings, with fever, chills and aches.
- Swelling in your groin – the area around your sex organs.

Protect Yourself

Stay Safe

- Not having sex is the best way to protect yourself from STD. Having sex with only one uninfected partner who only has sex with you is also safe.

If You Have Sex

- Use latex condoms with a water-based lubricant every time you have vaginal, anal or oral sex. Condoms will protect you from STD much of the time.
- Use plastic (polyurethane) condoms if you're allergic to latex. These come in both male and female styles.
- Talk to your partner about past sex partners and about needle drug use. Don't have sex with someone who you think may have an STD.
- Look closely at your partner for any signs of STD – a rash, a sore or discharge. If you see anything you're worried about don't have sex!

Take Action

- Get checked for STD regularly. Ask your health care provider to help you decide how often and which tests you should have.

- Vaccines can help protect you against hepatitis B and some types of HPV. Ask your provider if they're right for you.
- Know the signs and symptoms that worry you; **get checked!**

If You Have an STD

- Tell your sex partner(s). Your partner must get tested and treated, too. Otherwise he or she could give the STD to someone else or back to you.
- Wait to have sex. Ask your provider how long after treatment you must wait.

Remember that Parenting today's 21st Century children can be especially challenging for grandparents parenting the second time around. It can be said truthfully, that they are of another world. In this brief newsletter, Indiana Parenting Institute offers some helpful considerations in responding to the complexities of grand parenting in the 21st Century.



In parenting the second time around, you will find that today's children

- seem to be growing up more quickly
- are part of the rapidly changing technological age
- are exposed to more sex, violence and drugs in the media
- have access to the internet with its seemingly limitless content.

But the child (or children) coming to live with you may have experienced some degree of trauma due to being separated from their parents and because of neglect and/or abuse. To understand your grandchild's behavior, it helps to understand what he or she is going through. In the turmoil of the shattered family, children are the most affected and the least prepared to understand or talk about it. Your grandchild comes to you with a host of traumatic emotions that includes:

- Grief and abandonment
- Guilt
- Anger
- Fear, anxiety and insecurity

Help children cope with trauma

- reassure them, give them positive reinforcement and praise
- tell them they are not responsible for their parents' absence
- provide a loving, safe environment with a consistent and predictable daily routine
- make sure they sleep in the same bed each night and that their clothes and toys are stored in the same bedroom each day
- have regular meal times
- make sure they keep regular school hours

How children may behave:

- Excessive clinging
- Babyish or immature behavior

- Sleeping difficulties
- Bedwetting
- Refusal to eat
- Manipulative behavior

Positive Parenting Strategies:

- Set a clear daily routine
- Offer positive choices
- State rules in the positive: ‘I want you to...’
- Set limits and stick to them
- Present a united front
- Separate feelings and actions
- Try to stay calm
- Avoid overcompensating
- Reward good behavior
- Avoid physical punishment
- Make your consequences logical and appropriate
- Make consequences immediate
- Reinforce cause and effect
- Teach responsibility
- Follow through
- Act on the most important issues

Despite the challenges you may face, your role as caregiver of this child (or children) is extremely important. We encourage you to, unashamedly, take advantage of and reach out to available grand parent support services to ensure that you have access to all of the resources needed to help you and your grandchild (or children) succeed.

Glossary

You may encounter the following terminology when interacting with attorneys and service agencies.

Grandfamilies – families headed by grandparents and other relatives who are sharing their homes with their grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and/or other related children.

Householder - the primary person who owns or rents the house or apartment.

Housing Cost Burden - households paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing.

Multigenerational Grandparent-Headed Grandfamilies – families headed by grandparents with a parent or parents of the children present in the household.

Other Relative-Headed Grandfamilies – families headed by aunts, uncles or other relatives (not grandparents or parents of the children). These other relative-headed grandfamilies may or may not have a parent of the children living in the household.

Physical Custody: An informal agreement between parents and grandparents in which the grandparents care for the grandchildren in their home without official or legal authority by a court. The grandparents have no formal or legal rights to make decisions about the grandchildren, and the birth parents keep all rights and responsibilities relating to the children.

Legal Custody: A legal status created by court order that gives custody of the grandchildren to the grandparents (or other guardian). Grandparents have the legal authority to make decisions relating to the welfare of the grandchildren. Birth parents remain financially responsible for the children, and while the birth parents do not have custody of the children, they do have visitation rights (which may be supervised visitation if the grandparents so wish).

Parental Rights (or definition of “a parent”): Other than those rights and duties included in legal custody, parental rights and duties include the duty to support and provide necessities of life; the right to consent to adoption, to reasonable visitation unless restricted or prohibited by court order, to determine the minor’s religious affiliation and to petition on behalf of the minor. Even upon loss of legal custody, these are residual parental rights.

Guardianship: This is a legal arrangement in which an adult has the court-ordered authority and responsibility to care for a child. This situation may become necessary in the event of the death of a parent, or if the child has been abandoned, neglected, or abused. Guardians have the

authority to consent for medical treatment, enroll children in school, get birth certificates, and prevent birth parents from taking the children back without the court's approval. Once guardianship is ordered by the court, the child must live with the guardian, but the rights of the birth parents are not cut off entirely. Birth parents have the right to challenge the guardian's power, the right to ask for custody of the child to be returned to them, and the right to reasonable visitation.

Temporary or Emergency Guardian: An appointment of temporary guardianship that is initiated by petition and determined by court hearing for educational, medical care and dental care purposes shall be limited to not more than one (1) year.

Stand-By Guardian: A guardian designated by petition and authorized by court order prior to, and whose authority is activated upon, the occurrence of a specified event or the origination of a described mental or physical health condition of the petitioner, or current custodian. Once designated, this person can step in without requiring further attorney services or court orders as guardian in temporary or emergency situations until final decisions are made. This option is applicable to situations in which the acting parent (a) is seriously but temporarily ill, or (b) has a terminal and/or debilitating condition that prevents them from providing primary care, or (c) is deployed or otherwise absent.

Educational Surrogate Parent: An educational surrogate parent is an individual who has been appointed to represent the educational interests of a child *when the parent is unable or unwilling to do so*. A surrogate parent is appointed by a school district or other appropriate agency to ensure that the educational rights of a child are protected.

Adoption: The effect of this act terminates a former parent or guardian's rights to the control or custody of the child. The adopting person shall have all of those rights and obligations respecting the child as if they were natural parents. The adopting parents will not need to annually report to the courts as a guardianship requires. The key determining factor in an adoption is addressing the permanency of the placement. Adoption permanently transfers all parental rights from the birth parents to the adoptive parents.

Food Stamp Program: The Food Stamp program, under the Department of Family Services (DFS), is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance program, and provides crucial support to needy households and to those making the transition from welfare to work. Call your local (county) DFS office.

GARY SERVICE PROVIDER RESOURCE DIRECTORY

ADULT/ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Chase Alternative School

711 Chase Street
Gary, Indiana 46407
219-977-2126
Contact Person : Dr. Hord

Gary Career Center

1800 E. 35th Ave.
Gary, IN 46408
219-962-7571

Lake Ridge Education Center

6111 W Ridge Road
Gary, IN 46408
219-989-7816
Contact Person: Jim Snelson

Tree of Life Community Development Corp.

Gary, IN 46402
219-886-7475
Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00 p.m.

Work One

1776 W. 37th Ave
Gary, Indiana 46402
T: (219)981-4100

IN*Source

Barbara Leek Wesson Center
Contact Person: Hestina Monroe
300 W. 21st Ave
Gary, Indiana 46407
T: (219) 884-0431 Ex.23
F: (219) 977-8065

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

575 Broadway
Gary, Indiana 46402
219-886-2227
➤ *Civil Rights Organization*

Indiana University Northwest

Child Care Center

3400 Broadway
Gary, IN 46408
219-980-6875
Mon. – Thurs. 7:30 am til 6:00 pm
Fri. 7:30 til 5:30 pm
Children ages 3 -12 toilets trained

ADVOCACY

CASA

Lake County Juvenile Justice Complex
3000 W. 93rd.
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-738-2272
Contact Person: Liz Theodoros

AIDS RESOURCES

ICAAN-Indiana Community Aids Action Network

3951 Meridian Street Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46208
1-317-920-3190
1-800-659-7580

Aliveness Project of NW Indiana

5490 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-882-2453

CHILD CARE

Childcare Finder

1-800-299-1627
www.childcarefinder.IN.gov

Daily Bread Nutrition Program

8400 Louisiana Street
Merrillville Indiana 46410
T: (219) 757-1832
F: (219) 738-5823
Contact Person: Juanita Jernigan

Head Start

Title XXI
8400 Louisiana Street – 3rd Floor
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
T: (219) 757-1840
Contact Persons: Dr. Leonard Jozwiak
Kay Jackson

Lake County Child Care Development Fund Program

8400 Louisiana Street – 1st Floor
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
T: (219) 757-1957
Contact Person: Debra Jones

CLOTHING RESOURCES

Allen Chapel CME

836 E 21st Street
Gary, Indiana 46407
(219) 883-6666

Black Oak Baptist Church

6502 W 25th Ave
Gary, Indiana 46406
219-844-4328

Brothers Keepers

2120 Broadway
Gary, Indiana 46407
T:(219) 882-4459
F:219) 882-4450
Contact Person: Mary Edwards

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

EDGEWATER SYSTEMS FOR BALANCED LIVING

1100 W. 6TH Avenue

Gary, IN 46402

T: (219) 885-4264

F: (219) 882-7517

Contact Person: Timothy Thomas

➤ *Out patient Services*

SOUTHLAKE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

8555 Taft Street

Merrillville, IN 46410

T: (219) 769-4005

F: (219) 769-2508

Contact Person: Laura Moseng

TRI-CITY COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

3903 Indianapolis Blvd.

East Chicago, IN 46312

T: (219) 398-7050

F: (219) 392-6998

COMMUNITY SERVICES

American Red Cross

791 East 83rd Street

Merrillville, Indiana 46410

T: (219) 756-5360

Contact Person: Lisa Tonello

- *First Aid Instructions*
- *Disaster Preparedness*
- *CPR Instructions*

Latin American Community Alliance for Support/Assistance

837 West 45th Avenue

Gary, Indiana 46408

T: (219) 884-0095

F: (219) 884-0384

- *Latino Resource Center*
- *Tutorial Services*
- *English as a Second Language*

Prevention Services

C/O Geminus Corporation

8400 Louisiana Street

Merrillville, Indiana 46410

(219) 757-1830 -or- 1836

Contact Person: Albert Gay

- *Project: R.E.A.C.H.*
- *Hammond Community Coalition*
- *L.E.A.D. Initiative*

➤ *Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana*

South Lake County Community Services
Suite 202

1450 Joliet Street
Crown Point Indiana 46307
T: (219) 663-0627
F: (219) 663-0627
Contact Person: Margot Sabato

CRISIS HOUSING FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

Alpha Center

Edgewater Systems
2316 Jefferson Street
Gary, Indiana
T: (219) 882-8342 ext # 4252
F:(219) 882-8738
Contact Person: Mrs. George

Alternative House/Crisis Center

101 N Montgomery
Gary, Indiana 46403
T: (219) 938-7070
F:(219) 938-7503
Contact Person: Kathleen Marencik

DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS

ACT Program

Porter Starke Services
Porter County Education Interlocal
750 Ransom Rd.
Valparaiso, IN 46385
219-531-8741

Contact Person: Paula Nalls

Selah Academy

*1991 W. 39th Court 2nd floor
Gary, IN 46409
219-980-7919*

Contact Person: Lawrence Ruffin

Campagna Academy

7403 Cline Avenue
Schererville, IN 46375
T: (219) 322-8614
F: (219) 322-8436
Contact Person: Vercena Stewart

Provisions Educational Network

5201 Broadway first floor
Merrillville, IN 46410
T: (219) 980-6100
F: (219) 980-6101
Contact Person: Debra Black

Julia Williams

➤ *Day Treatment Program*

Edu-Care Plaza

3809 Pierce St.
Gary, IN 46408
219-980-0805

Southlake Child & Adolescence Century Program

New Horizons
4795 Broadway
Gary Indiana 46409
T: 219-887-3688
F: 219-887-2666

1409 East 84th Place
Merrillville, Indiana
T: (219) 794-2000
F: (219) 794-2010
Contact Person: Dan Smith, Director

DEAF SERVICES

Deaf Services, Inc.

6 East 67th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410
T: (219) 769-6506
F: (219) 769-6975
TDP#: 769-8912
Contact Person: Georgene Duncan

Deaf Interpreter Services

Professional Interpreters for the Deaf
7329 Marshall Street
Merrillville, IN 46410
T: (219) 736-7512
F: (219) 769-6298
Contact: Joanne Snyder

DISABILITY RESOURCES

The Arc Northwest, Indiana

2650 West 35th Ave.
Gary, IN 46408
219-884-1138

Bureau of Developmental Disability Field Services

5800 Broadway Suite P
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-769-5055
TDD 769-5008

Cerebral Palsy of NWI

Hobart, IN 46342
219-962-5751

Chicago Lighthouse Services

1850 Roosevelt Rd.
Chicago, IL 60608
1-312-666-1331

Children's Special Health Care Services

2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-475-1355
1-800-433-0749 Spanish

Deaf Services

6 East 67th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-769-6506
219-769-8912 (TDD)

Everybody Counts

9111 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-769-5055
TDD 769-5008

First Care Pediatric Rehabilitation Center

200 W. 84th Drive Suite D
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-764-4888

First Steps

11045 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-7790

Innovations in Learning

8091 Randolph St.
Hobart, IN 46342
219-942-5590

IN-PACT

12300 Marshall St.
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-1905

Metro Corps of Gary Inc.

1100 Massachusetts
Gary, IN 46407
219-882-3536

**Northwest Indiana Special Education
Cooperative**

2150 W 97th Place
Crown Point IN 46307
219-663-6500

Respite Care Services, Inc.

6525 Columbia Ave. Suite B
Hammond IN 46320
219-931-8172
*respite for families of elderly and
Disabled

Tradewinds Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

5901 W. Seventh Ave.
PO Box 6308
Gary, IN 46404
219-949-4000
219-944-8134

Transaction

219-882-6159
*transportation for disabled and elderly

Vocational Rehabilitation

138 E. Lincoln Highway
Schererville, IN 463
219-864-8163

Wee Care Therapy LTD.

1501 Joliet
Dyer, IN 46311
219-322-1415

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**The ARK**

445 Connecticut St.
Gary, IN 46402
219-882-0021

Caring Place Inc

2305 Roosevelt Rd.
Valparaiso, IN
219-464-2128

Haven House, INC

Hammond, IN 46320
219-931-2090
Contact Person: Lisa Wein

**Lake County Family & Domestic Services
Bureau**

219-755-3354

**Lake County Prosecutors Domestic Relations
Bureau**

219-755-3683

Rainbow Shelter

Gary, IN 46402
219-886-1600

St. Jude House

12490 Marshall St.
Crown Point, IN 46307
Contact Person: Joy Heminger

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

St. Mark Head Start

3880 Jackson Street

Gary, IN 46408

Phone: 219 985 6275/219 985 6283

Fax 219 985 6717

Program Manager: Nicole Ascar

St. Mary of the Lake

6070 Miller Avenue

Gary, IN 46403

Phone: 219 938 4927/219 938 4933

Fax: 219 938 4833

Program Manager: Sheree Ford

IUN Child Care Center

3400 Broadway

Gary, IN 46408

Phone: 219 980 6875

Fax: 219 981 5605

Program Manager: Tara Chandler

FOOD RESOURCES

First AME Church
2005 Massachusetts Street
Gary, Indiana 46407
(219)886-7561
Thursdays
9:00 am until gone

Meals on Wheels NW Indiana, Inc.
8446 Virginia
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219)756-3663

Community and Faith Outreach Ministry Committees

Mary Vaughn – Director

Mattie Banks – Chair – Support Group

Pamela Wilson

Valerie Tate

Camille Britton & Cora Garner – Co- Chairs – Children Conference

Carole Wade

Cherese Gregory - Advertisement

Eulah Mitchell & Loyce Woodard – Co-Chairs – Registration

Members Churches and Other Ministries

First AME Church

2005 Massachusetts St.

Gary, Indiana 46203

Mary Vaughn

Cora Garner

Mattie Banks

Valerie Tate

Family Recreation

E. Darryl McCullough, Director

Provides open basketball recreation every Wednesday night

Food Pantry

Serves groceries to public each Thursday

Bethel AME Church

629 E Michigan Blvd.

Michigan City, IN 46360

Loyce Woodard

Trade Partners ServiceSupport

Customer eXperience Center
553 Benson Road MD 8060
269-759-6321
Loyce A. Woodard

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

735 East 20th Ave.
Gary, Indiana 46407

Camille Britton

St. James A.M.E. Church

122 Dr. King Drive
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

The Lord's Cupboard - food items, clothing and other necessities

Eulah Mitchell

Van Buren Missionary Baptist Church

2585 Van Buren
Gary, Indiana

Carole Wade

Liberty Baptist Church

2301 Roosevelt
Gary, Indiana 46404

Pamela Wilson

Trinity United Church of Christ

400 West 95th Street
Chicago, IL 60628

Δ Ψ Ε

Delta Psi Epsilon Christian Sorority Inc.

"The sorority that puts God first!!"

<http://www.deltapsiepsilon.com/>

Cherese R. Gregory

Grandparents Are Special

By H. Blandenah Black

Grandparents are special indeed -

They always have what we need -

Maybe it's a loving hug or a sweet kiss -

Maybe it's our favorite dish -

Grandparents are special indeed -

They are just who we need -

When we are sick or well -

When we are happy or sad -

When we are good or bad -

They always seem to understand -

They always lend a helping hand -

They always seem to be proud of good things we do -

I love my grandparents,

I hope you love yours, too.



2045 Massachusetts Street, Gary, IN 46407
(219) 886-7561

Rev. Emmanuel J. Vaughn, Sr., Pastor

First A.M.E. Church Organizations

Angel Choir

Janet Johnson, Sponsor
Children's choir (ages 4-12) sings
on 5th Sundays

Building/Mortgage Fund Committee

Mamon Powers, Jr., Chairperson
Raises funds to pay off church
mortgage

Chancel Choir

Mark Powers, Chairperson
Choir sings each 1st and 3rd Sundays

Community & Faith Outreach Ministry

Mary Vaughn, Director
Sponsors and supports community-
based activities

Courtesy Guild

Dorothy Cooper Jones, Chairperson
Official hosts; welcomes and
introduces visitors

Elite Matrons

Dorothy Cowherd, President
Sponsors vesper; studies bible,
supports elderly

FAME Choir

Cynthia Powers, Coordinator
Teenage choir which sings on 4th
Sundays

Family Recreation Committee

E. Darryl McCullough, Director
Provides open recreation each
Wednesday night

First A.M.E. Boosters

Cora Garner, President
Activities support the United Male
Chorus

Food Pantry Committee

Mary Helen Comer, Chairperson
Serves groceries to public each
Thursday

Junior Courtesy Guild

Ella Kelly/Helen Comer, Coordinators
Welcomes and introduces visitors on
4th Sundays

Junior Steward Board

Stephen Powers, Pro-Tem
Youth board; encourages pastor and
his activities

Junior (Youth) Usher Board

Ernestine Strickland, Sponsor
Youth ages 3-18; ushers on 4th
Sundays

Mamon Powers, Sr. Lay Organization

Ronald Gholson, President
Studies A.M.E. discipline, history,
and principles

Members Class 102

Mary Vaughn, Facilitator
Teaches New and Present Members the
Doctrine, Discipline and Heritage of
the AME Church

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society

Diane Gordon, President

Five units sponsor numerous missionary projects

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society (Rachel Unit)

Eliza Wilder, Chairperson
Supports all Nora F. Taylor projects and activities

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society (Rebecca Unit)

Mary Helen Comer, Chairperson
Supports all Nora F. Taylor projects and activities

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society (Rhoda Unit)

Patricia Turner, Chairperson
Supports all Nora F. Taylor projects and activities

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society (Ruth Unit)

Faye Barnes, Chairperson
Supports all Nora F. Taylor projects and activities

Nora F. Taylor Missionary Society (YPD Div.)

YPD Sponsor TBA
Youth who support all Nora F. Taylor activities

Nurses Guild

Mattie Banks, President
Provides first aid to those in need

Pastor's Aid

Minnie Adams, President
Provide activities which support the pastor

Steward Board

Charles Barnes, Pro-Tem
Supports pastor; keeps account of church funds

Stewardess Board

Lelia Phillips, President
Prepares altar; assists with communions/baptisms

Sunday School

Claude Powers, Superintendent
Evangelism with major focus on children

Trustee Board

William Fair, Pro-Tem
Responsible for upkeep of all church property

Usher Board #1

Demetrious Powers, President
Ushers on 1st Sundays and for funerals that week

Usher Board #2

Maryl Joyner, President
Ushers on 2nd Sundays and for funerals that week

Usher Board #3

Daisy Purnell, President
Ushers on 3rd Sundays and for funerals that week

Songfellows

Maurice Preston, President
Men's choir; sings one Sunday each month



We'd Love for You to Join Us

8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service
12:00 noon Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study