



Destination: Home Mid-Year Update

June 2009



Dear Luzada,

As a community, we've reached the fifth year of implementation of *Destination: Home*, the ten-year plan the end & prevent homelessness in Evansville & Vanderburgh County.

This message contains a mid-year update of several aspects of the work going on toward the aim of helping everyone in our community to reach his/her destination: HOME.

Whether you've signed up for information about just one of the groups/projects or to be kept updated on the progress of the overall plan, you'll find relevant information in the articles below.

We're thankful for your interest and support!

## Commission on Homelessness

The city-county Commission on Homelessness oversees the implementation of *Destination: Home*.

**Commission on Homelessness**

The next [Commission on Homelessness](#) meetings will be...  
Thurs., August 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Browning Room A at the Central Library downtown and  
Thurs., September 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room in the Civic Center.

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel serves as Chair until the end of 2009, when the chairmanship will switch to Commissioner Troy Tornatta for 2010.

The Commission's work is primarily carried out through [five working groups](#) that are working on various strategies of *Destination: Home*. Their updates are below.

Other community groups are also working on projects which connect to *Destination: Home* strategies. Those updates or features are to the right.

## Prevention Committee

The [Prevention Committee](#) is co-chaired by Lynne Imes of Outreach Ministries, and Craig Berkeley of Old National Bank. Part of *Destination: Home* aims to "[Close the Front Door](#)" to

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## Bike to Work & Transportation Issues

Created in 2005, through the **Homeless Veterans' Networking Group**, to help with carrying out a transportation strategy of *Destination: Home*, the "**Bike to Work**" program has given out at least **250 bicycles** to homeless veterans and others who are homeless and in need of transportation for employment.

homelessness through prevention.

The group has completed its Housing Risk Assessment Tool and will be recruiting a number of agencies in the community to pilot the tool in discussing housing needs and options with those they serve. (See their [Strategy 1.](#))

The Prevention Committee and the [Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana](#) (HSCSI)'s steering committee met with City leaders as well as regional leaders to develop a plan for the use of federal stimulus funds expected later this year from the Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program.

## Discharge Planning Coalition

The [Discharge Planning Coalition](#) (DPC) is working to assist area institutions with developing plans that include housing considerations when releasing clients, patients, inmates, or wards of the state in order to prevent releasing to homelessness.



Throughout its first year the DPC has discussed a variety of needs related to services and the coordination of those services, citing the unique situations that exist with people being released from corrections, discharged from health care or treatment facilities, and youth aging out of foster care.

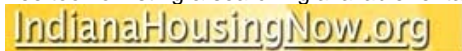
In its research, the DPC has developed a wraparound approach to supporting an individual in preparing to exit a facility or program through bringing to the table representatives from service providers who can offer transitional services that aid in preventing the person from being homeless upon release.

For more information or to become involved, contact Mindy Niehaus, the Discharge Planning Coordinator, at 774-1480 or email [homelink@destination-home.info](mailto:homelink@destination-home.info) Visit the DPC homepage at [www.destination-home.info/dpc.htm](http://www.destination-home.info/dpc.htm)

## Housing Committee

Serving as the working group that focuses on the strategies in *Destination: Home* which target housing, this committee is chaired by Mildred Motley of the Evansville Housing Authority.

During the '08-'09 school year, Hanna Scott, a USI intern, served this group through funding supplied by Integra Bank. Hanna's role centered around the promotion of the Indiana Housing Now website among area landlords. [www.indianahousingnow.org](http://www.indianahousingnow.org) is a free tool for listing & searching available rental properties.



The Housing Committee continues to seek out avenues for creating more housing that is affordable to those in our community who are homeless and have extremely low income.

Three teams (each comprised of a developer, a service provider, and a property manager) from the Evansville area are participating in the Indiana Supportive Housing Institute during the latter half of this year. The multi-session training is hosted by the [Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority](#) (IHCDA) and the [Corporation for Supportive Housing](#) (CSH) and will assist the teams in developing housing projects to be presented to funders at the end of the year. The teams are working to develop a total of 125 units of supportive housing in our community.

According to CSH, "The Supportive Housing Institute is a unique opportunity for housing and service providers at all levels of experience to hone their skills in the creation of supportive housing serving individuals and families experiencing long-term or persistent homelessness. It offers a chance for non-profit and for-profit developers of affordable housing and providers of support



Patchwork Central has given out more than 175 bikes to homeless adults and neighborhood children since 2006.

In the area of *Destination: Home* called [Build the Infrastructure: Services](#), the first strategy is [Improve/Develop Transportation Options for Low-Income Individuals](#).

### Partners in Caring

originally addressed and raised awareness of public transportation needs.

In 2009, CAJE (Congregations Acting for Justice & Empowerment) held an action rally to focus on issues related to public transportation and to call for action toward improving such services.

### Veteran Stand Down

Thurs., Sept. 24, 2009

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Marion VA Health Care System  
Evansville Outpatient Clinic  
500 E. Walnut St., Evansville



For homeless veterans & veterans in need:  
Food, Resources, Supplies,  
Medical Screenings,  
Community Services

### Vanderburgh Homeless Connect



1 Day.  
1 Stop.  
1 Mission:  
coordinated services for people who are homeless or near-homeless  
More than 360 Guests were served on Thurs., March 12, 2009, by 250 staff at 77

vendors and more than 150 volunteers!

#### Quick Facts:

- 41% of the Guests were homeless
- 47 veterans were served
- 45 children were cared for while parents sought services
- 802 plates of lunch served (Guests, Vendors, &

services to draw on each other's expertise and to learn from local and national experts as they plan actual supportive housing projects in the State of Indiana." [Read more...](#)

## Homeless Youth Coalition



Well into its second year of implementing the [fourteen recommendations](#) presented to the Commission on Homelessness in early 2008, the [Homeless Youth Coalition](#) (HYC) was instrumental in state legislative advocacy efforts for updated laws

regarding services for "unaccompanied" youth ages 16 & 17. ([Read more](#))

Coalition member organization Hillcrest Washington Youth Home stepped forward this spring to be the lead agency in the creation of a drop-in center for homeless youth. ([See press release.](#)) Hillcrest continues to research best practice models in other communities and aims to have its local plan ready to present to the HYC later this fall.

The HYC is co-chaired by Cynthia Smith and Patty Avery and has 15 to 25 people in attendance at its meetings. For more information or to find out how to get involved, contact Patty at [patty.avery@oldnational.com](mailto:patty.avery@oldnational.com) or 465-7278.

For subcommittee info and contacts, [click here](#).

### Next meeting:

**Mon., Aug. 24 - 12:00 noon** at United Way, 501 NW 4th St.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Mon., Sept. 28** - HYC Luncheon with special guest (co-sponsored by Indiana Youth Institute)

(Those on the HYC contact list will receive notice. Email [connect@destination-home.info](mailto:connect@destination-home.info) if you want to receive the event details.)

## Raising Incomes Committee

This group, chaired by Arin Norris of Mental Health America, endeavors to carry out the [raising incomes strategies](#) in *Destination: Home*. The committee recently hosted a breakfast called [Women, Work, & Community](#) at which its vision was shared regarding the creation of some form of social venture or community endeavor to target the prevention of homelessness among women and families. It is envisioned that this program could eventually be expanded to serve homeless men.



Comments from Arin's introduction of the idea included,

*"The [Raising Incomes Committee](#) believes that a community solution exists for connecting people who are homeless with jobs. We envision an innovative service for the homeless that includes training, mentoring, and support services, resulting in a job that will provide self-sufficiency.*

*"We believe there are hard workers and entrepreneurs within those who are homeless in our community. In our grandest dreams, we envision a physical location, where all these services can wrap around a person who is homeless as he/she heads toward the work that he/she was meant to do." (See [full comments](#) ~ [statistics/examples](#).)*

**Next meeting: Thurs., July 23 - 11:30 a.m.** in the Blue & Gold Room at Old National Bank, One Main St., in downtown Evansville.

To RSVP, learn more, or get involved in this committee or project, contact Arin at [mhadirector@sigeom.net](mailto:mhadirector@sigeom.net) or 812-426-2640.

### Volunteers)

- Most visited service: Employment Services (353 encounters)
- 40 haircuts given
- 90 Indiana photo ID's issued
- 50 Social security card applications
- 86 Birth certificates issued

...and much, much more!

Download these reports:

[End of Day Report](#)  
[Early Observations](#)

Visit the event page for a list of partners, donors, sponsors, and observations from the day:

<http://www.destination-home.info/vhc.htm>

To get involved in VHC 2010, use the "Update Profile/Email Address" in the footer of this email to be sure you are signed up to receive information about this event. Or, send an email to [connect@destination-home.info](mailto:connect@destination-home.info) or call 428.4975 to express your interest.

## Champions for Ending Homelessness

### New Commitments to the Spirit & Philosophy of Destination: Home

We welcome **recently signed, renewed, or updated** organizational, individual and elected official endorsements from these "Champions" for ending homelessness:

### ELECTED OFFICIALS:

**Stephen Melcher**, Vanderburgh County Commissioner

**William Fluty, Jr.**, Vanderburgh County Auditor

Vanderburgh County Council: **Michael**

**Goebel, James Raben, Thomas**

**Shetler, Jr., & Royce Sutton**

City Council: **H. Dan Adams, Curt**

**John, Missy Mosby, Constance**

**Robinson, & B.J. Watts**

[for a complete list, click here](#)

### ORGANIZATIONAL:

Albion Fellows Bacon Center  
Church Women United  
City-County Human Relations Commission

Deaconess Health System  
Diehl Evaluation & Consulting Services

ECHO Community Health Care

ECHO Housing Corporation

Evansville Christian Life Center

Evansville Rescue Mission

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

First Presbyterian Church, Evansville

Goodwill Family Center

IMPACT Christian Health Center

Integra Bank

NAMI Evansville

St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Vincent de Paul-Nativity Conference/Parish

Southwestern Healthcare

WNIN-Tri-State Public Media

Zion United Church of Christ-Women's Fellowship, Evansville

Zion United Church of Christ,

Henderson, KY

[for a complete list, click here](#)

### INDIVIDUAL:

Marsha Abell

Olivia Adler

Jennifer Ballard

Thomas Barnett

Emily Baxter

Douglas Berry

Vera Campbell

## PlaySpaces



With two pilot sites launched in Sept. 2006, **PlaySpaces** is nearing its third year as a project aimed at supporting our youngest homeless neighbors: children ages birth to 5 years in [seven facilities](#) (emergency shelters and transitional housing programs) in the city.

[4C of Southern Indiana](#) now coordinates this project which was birthed by **H.E.L.P.**, a support group for frontline staff of homeless serving agencies.

**Ginny Smith, Volunteer Coordinator**, recruits, trains, schedules, and supports volunteers from the community who go into the sites to spend time with the children as well as the parents.

For more information on *PlaySpaces*, [click here](#).  
To volunteer, contact Ginny at [gsmith@child-care.org](mailto:gsmith@child-care.org) or call 812.423.4008 Or download an application by [clicking here](#).

## Bridges – a Community Response to Poverty



**Bridges** addresses the core reasons for continued poverty while increasing the sustainability of our community through a comprehensive, community-based approach.

In late 2004 leaders from a variety of different organizations came together to form the [Bridges Collaborative Group of Southern Indiana](#), an on-going collaborative effort to reduce generational poverty.

### Training

To date, 1,506 individuals have participated in training and/or experiential learning about poverty. In a three-year period, seven trainers have been certified to teach *Bridges Out of Poverty*. Each is certified for two years. The trainers work closely together to review participant evaluations, improve training techniques, refine the [Day 1](#) & [Day 2](#) training content, conduct overviews of the project and curriculum, and establish protocol for specific groups (e.g. business, churches).

The [Community Action Poverty Simulation](#) experience (now part of Day 1 training) is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live in a low-income family trying to survive from month to month. It is a simulation, not a game. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by people with low-income. The Bridges Collaborative Group partners with the United Way of Southwestern Indiana to provide the poverty simulation.

### Future Training Dates:

Day 1 - [July 16](#) (deadline extended to July 13) and  
[Oct. 6](#) (deadline Sept. 29)  
Day 2 - [July 29](#) (deadline July 22)  
(Click on the dates for a registration form. No Walk-ins.  
All participants must pre-register.)

### Employers/Businesses

The business team continues to provide opportunities for strengthening employers' approach to issues of [recruitment and retention](#). Beginning with a business breakfast in 2007, the outreach and training has increased to include small group gatherings, presentations to Rotary, and a half day training for HR managers. An additional training is scheduled for [July 16](#) for employers and human resource personnel. (Note: This is a separate event from the 7/16 Day 1 training. Registrants must choose one of the other for this date.)

### Much More

[Read more](#) about this community-wide project aimed at addressing generational poverty and community sustainability.

Susan Carson  
Michael Caudill  
Jason Chadwell  
Carol Collier-Smith  
Catherine Everhard  
Carlada Flowers  
Stephanie Gantt  
Tracy Gorman  
Rhonda Greene  
Penny Grubb  
Carolyn Harmon  
Jamie Harrison  
Mary Hart  
Andrew Wyeth Hatfield  
Luzada Hayes  
Carrie Heck  
Sr. Donna Marie Herr  
Teresa Huff  
K. Isbell  
Annie Kaempe  
Sara Kemmerlin  
Debbie Kincaid  
Meghann Kulenkamp  
Rev. Stephen Lintzenich  
Michelle Lovelady-Smith  
Mary MacGregor  
Jill Miller  
Melinda Niehaus  
Natasha Nix  
Stephanie Norrick  
Arin Norris  
Marie Opatrny, PhD  
Jean Orth  
David Parker  
Florentina Pffetscher  
Tiffany Piazza  
Sr. Victoria Pohl  
Lu Porter  
Connie Ralph  
Kimron Reising  
Brian Revalee  
Sr. Sharon Richardt  
Sr. Leona Schlachter  
Sr. Emmanuel Schott  
Bob Shaner  
Philip Stegel  
Cynthia Smith, PhD  
David Smith  
Susan Steinkamp  
Ann Sulawske  
Judy Thomas  
Sr. Joanna Trainer  
Camille Verkamp  
Amanda Vote  
W.A. Winslow  
Sarah Wolf  
W.I. Woods  
Jerry Yezbick  
[for a complete list, click here](#)

We continue to actively solicit endorsements, both from organizations and individuals. [Click here to obtain an endorsement form](#). Please send in your endorsement if you support the spirit and philosophy of *Destination: Home*.

## Homeless Statistics

[Evansville & Vanderburgh County Children, Teens, & Young Adults State National Special Populations Domestic Violence Veterans Chronic Homelessness Rural Homelessness](#)

## Resources

[Indiana Housing Now Self-Sufficiency Calculator Homeless Service Providers Interactive Data/Research Tools Foreclosure to Homelessness Renters in Foreclosure Out of Reach report](#)

## Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana

This regional group, HSCSI for short, is the "continuum of care"



oversight group for the Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana southwest region of Indiana, which includes Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh & Warrick counties. The HSCSI addresses the needs of homeless and near-homeless in Southwest Indiana and works to end homelessness in our communities.

Monthly meetings are held on the **second Friday of each month at 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. (Central time)**. The location has recently been moved to **Old National Bank**, One Main St., in downtown Evansville. The meeting is in the **Blue & Gold Room**, inside the Bistro, from which attendees may choose to purchase lunch or bring a lunch from home.

For more information on the work of the HSCSI and how to be a member, visit [www.destination-home.info/hscsi.htm](http://www.destination-home.info/hscsi.htm) or call [Gayl Killough](mailto:GaylKillough@destination-home.info), facilitator, at 436-7810 or the current Chair, [Luzada Hayes](mailto:LuzadaHayes@destination-home.info) at 428-3246 x 28.

### YOU are the key to *Destination: Home*

Thank you for your interest in ending & preventing homelessness! Thank you for partnering with so many others to see that each person in community can reach his/her destination: HOME!

**Destination: Home**  
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*A Ten Year Journey  
to End Homelessness  
in Evansville and  
Vanderburgh County*



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