

# **Chevy Chase Community Center**

## **Annual Report**

**December 2014**

**Chevy Chase Community Action Council, Inc,  
Interim Executive Director: Beverly Matthews, November 1, 2014  
Former Director: Diane Reese-Walters  
640 North Fifth Street  
Indiana, PA 15701**

**724-463-0674**

**[www.indiana-cccac.org](http://www.indiana-cccac.org)**

## **Board of Directors**

Micah McMillen, President  
Clergy

Helen Bradenburg`

Sean Sadler, Treasurer (Interim)  
Business Owner

### **Members of the Board**

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Business Owner

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Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Joanne Bliss  
Retired

Nancy Connor  
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Indiana County Sheriff

Guy Habrel  
Magisterial District Judge

Patricia Holmes  
Retired

Helen Bradenburg  
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Retired

Julia Trimarchi  
Attorney at Law

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Mary Whitfield  
Blairsville-Saltsburg School Board Member  
Preschool Teacher

## **Overview and History**

The Chevy Chase Community Action Council, Inc. (CCCAC), commonly referred to as the Chevy Chase Community Center, is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization founded in Indiana County Pennsylvania in 1969.

### **Mission Statement**

To provide a venue for community members to offer support and services to assist residents who live in poverty by ensuring they have access to vital human services, food, education and recreation programs that will improve their quality of life and enhance the greater community.

### **History**

In September 1969, a community of concerned citizens who wanted to combat poverty and assist Indiana County residents in need established the Chevy Chase Community Action Council, Inc.

After the CCCAC was incorporated as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, the group launched a fundraiser to build a community center. Their vision became a reality in 1971 when the Chevy Chase Community Center was constructed with assistance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2000, the Center was renovated and rededicated to the community with a grant from the Indiana County Commissioners.

### **The Chevy Chase Community Center**

The Chevy Chase Community Center building, land and equipment is the greatest financial asset. As of December 31, 2013, the value placed on those assets was \$133,785.

The Center is located in the Chevy Chase Heights neighborhood in White Township and is within blocks the borough of Indiana, the Indiana Area High School, the Junior High School and numerous government and non-profit service providers from which low-income residents can receive services such as housing assistance and government benefits.

The building is handicapped accessible and includes a large community room, a fully equipped kitchen, offices and activity rooms. The building is not only used to provide services, but is also rented out to the community organizations at a nominal fee.

## **Serving Residents in Need**

The Chevy Chase Community Center provides services for low-income individuals and families, including unemployed, working poor, homeless, disabled, elderly, veterans and children in Indiana County.

The Center does not discriminate against any person based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age in participation in its programs, services and activities

The Center's consumers are concentrated in the rural communities of Indiana County as well as Chevy Chase Heights and the neighboring Indiana Borough. Families and individuals are qualified based on three main areas as defined by various government agencies as follows:

### **Poverty**

For 2013, HHS defines poverty as an individual living on an annual income below \$11,490 or a family of four living on \$23,550. The most recent estimates available from the U.S. Census bureau show that more than 18 percent of the residents in Indiana County and 23% of children under age 18 live in poverty.

### **Food Insecurity**

The USDA Research Service reports that the characteristics most often reported when a person or family is food insecure include that they are worried food would run out; food bought did not last; could not afford a balanced meal; skipped meals; or, ate less than they should.

Feeding America, a national hunger relief charity, developed a Map the Meal Gap, which estimates there are 12,170 food insecure individuals, or 13.7% of the total population of Indiana County. It further estimates that 64 percent of the food insecure population in Indiana County is below 160% of poverty, which is the threshold for eligibility for the SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

### **Unemployment**

Feeding America estimates that unemployment is one of the most common indicators of food insecurity. Unemployment is defined by The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics classified persons as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. In November 2014, 5.1% of the Indiana County population was unemployed.

## **2014 Programs and Services**

### **Gleaning**

Bakery items are available at no charge to residents Monday through Friday and made available with donations from community businesses including Martins, Auntie Anne's Pretzels and Giant Eagle. Area residents serve as volunteer gleaners by collecting the baked goods each day. An average of 30 individuals stop by the center each day to pick-up food from throughout Indiana County.

### **Feeding Program**

From January to December, a healthy, balanced lunch is provided on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Center. The program is open to all residents and those with the ability to pay are encouraged to make donations. Not only does the lunch provide meals to those in need, but also is an opportunity for our residents to get to know each other and become more familiar with the Center. From January through December 2014 2013, the programs served 285 individuals, 142 households and provided 3125 meals.

### **Summer Food Lunch Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture funds and the Pennsylvania Department of Education administers the summer food lunch program, which is managed locally by the Center and with support from area volunteers from June through August. During the 2013 summer, the program served approximately 80 children and youth by providing more than 3017 meals and 824 snacks at the following five locations in Indiana County.

Chevy Chase Community Center  
Adelphoi Village  
Alpha-Day Treatment at the Community Guidance Center  
New Story

In addition, an estimated 66 children who received lunch at the Chevy Chase Community Center also participate in the youth activity program, which includes field trips, education and recreation.

### **After-School Program**

During 2014, we received a grant through Catholic Charities to bring forth an after-school program to 20 at-risk children. We were able to enroll 22 students to receive tutoring, hot meals, and activities three days a week with the support of volunteers from the IUP Early Childhood Development department.

## **Health Education and Awareness**

The Center maintains partnerships with local organizations to provide free preventative health services and nutrition education for residents. These include free medical screenings, healthy meal planning and preparation, fitness and drug and alcohol awareness. The Center provides the facilities, outreach to its clients and support for the programs, which are offered free of charge to the community.

## **Community Garden**

A community garden was established in 2013 on land donated to the center by the children of the late Ben Cunningham, a founding member and neighbor of the Center. The garden provides youth with an opportunity to learn how to grow, prepare and store fresh food. The Indiana County Penn State Extension provides education and assistance with gardening, safe food handling, storage and preparation. 30 volunteers worked with youth at the Center to prepare the garden in the spring of 2013. We continue to develop and maintain the community garden with the support of Starbuck and Comcast.

## **COMPASS and Referral Services**

The Center became a partner with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the summer of 2013 to assist people who need help with COMPASS, an online application for government health and human service programs and benefits. The program provides a one stop online location for families and individuals to apply for a variety of programs including Medical Assistance, Children's Health Insurance (CHIP), Cash Assistance, Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), SNAP (Food Stamps), Home and Community Based Services, Long Term Care and School Meals.

## **Emergency Services**

Emergency services are provided in a variety of ways based on the individual needs of clients who come to the Center for help. The CCCAC accepts donations for food and clothing, which are available on an as needed basis. When possible, we also provide assistance with those who need emergency financial assistance for utilities, prescription drugs or other needs when other avenues have been exhausted but financial need still exists. Since January 2013, more than 200 individuals from 74 households were served.

## **Cinderella Program**

The Cinderella program is planned to kick off in the spring of 2014. The program is for income eligible female high school students who wish to attend their prom but are unable to afford the cost to attend. Participants will be required to attend 4 workshops that will address self-awareness, self-esteem and self-worth. At the completion of the program, participants will receive Prom Gowns donated by area residents.

## **Medical Assistance Employment Program**

This program was designed to assist individuals that were recently awarded Social Security Disability but ineligible for Medicare for one year. The MAWD program through the county assistance will provide health insurance to individuals with disabilities that are working. An individual working at least one hour a month is eligible for the MAWD program but find it difficult to find a company willing to hire an individual for one hour a month. The Chevy Chase agency developed a program to hire these individuals for the one hour month to make them eligible for (MAWD-Medical Assistance for Working with Disabilities). The individual is eligible for one year or until their medicare benefits are instated through Social Security Administration.

## **Major Sources of Funding and Donations**

### **Year-to-Date Funding 2014**

#### **United Way of Indiana County**

A \$19,000 grant application was funded to support the Centers' family meal programs and related emergency services programs.

#### **White Township Supervisors**

\$9,900 was provided for general operations at the center.

#### **The Pennsylvania Department of Education**

An estimated \$8,000 to \$9,000 in reimbursements for meals either has been provided or will be provided in support of the Summer Food Lunch program, which ended Friday, August 16.

#### **Catholic Charities**

A \$6,650.00 grant was funded for the youth initiatives at the Center.

### **Pathstone Senior Community Service Employment Program**

Four part-time staff positions are provided to eligible individuals age 55 and older to receive on the job experience through employment at the center. Three positions are currently filled.

### **Giant Eagle, Auntie Anne's, Martins Food Markets**

These local businesses donate baked goods to be provided free of charge to residents in need Monday through Friday.

## **How Can You Help?**

The Chevy Chase Community Action Council takes seriously its commitment to operate a Community Center that embodies the spirit of community service on which it was founded. Your assistance is critical to helping us build on our mission to combat poverty and support our neighbors in need.

### **Donate**

Your financial contributions ensure we are able to maintain the building and provide support for our programs, services and general operations.

Please send your donations to:

**Chevy Chase Community Action Council, Inc.  
640 North Fifth Street  
Indiana, PA 15701**

We welcome donations of non-perishable food, clothing and household items between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **Volunteer**

The following volunteer services are needed:

- Gleaners to collect baked goods weekday mornings from area merchants.
- Kitchen helpers for Soup Kitchen.
- Gardeners to help maintain the community garden.
- Office support to help with basic administrative functions of the Center.
- Individuals with an interest in helping plan and execute fundraisers.
- Community organizations to provide free programs and services to those who come to the Center for help.

If you have a special talent, a business service or other ways you believe you can help the Center provide quality services, we welcome your ideas and assistance.

We invite you to stop by the Center between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm weekdays or call us at 724-463-0674.

We thank you for your support.