

# CANDIDS

Winter 2008

Issue

Vol.30, No.1

ICCAP

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**Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc. (ICCAP)**  
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Indiana, PA 15701  
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## ICCAP



## New Mission Statement

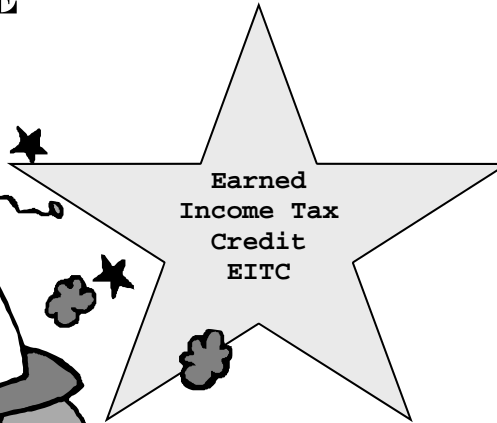
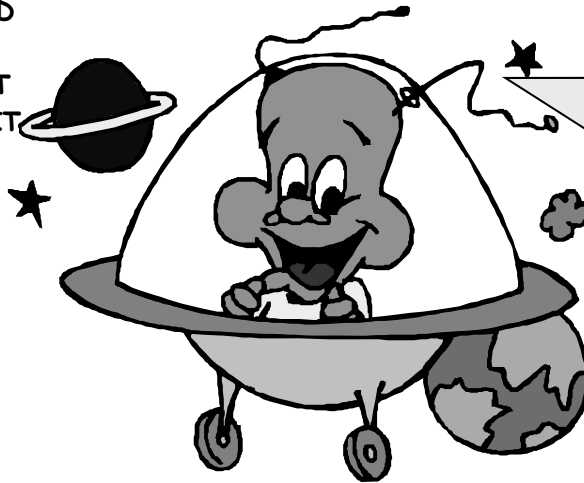
**To serve as the  
community agency  
to mobilize  
services and resources  
to empower  
families and individuals  
to progress towards  
self-sufficiency.**

**December 6, 2007: The new mission statement was approved by the Board of Directors, giving ICCAP a new vision toward the future.**

**WE'RE BACK!**  
**For TAX SEASON 2007**  
**ICCAP'S FREE INCOME TAX**  
**SERVICE**

SPLIT  
REFUND

DIRECT  
DEPOSIT



They're coming from all over to get free tax service.

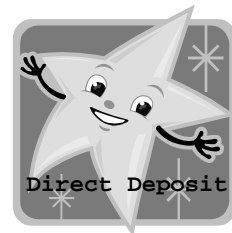
**VITA-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance  
Program**

*Must meet income guidelines*

**2007 Tax Season is Here!**

Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.  
827 Water Street  
Indiana, PA 15701  
Phone: 724-465-2657

For more information contact  
Arlene Anderson, AmeriCorps VISTA or  
Diane Reese-Walters, Asset Development Director  
@ 724-465-2657  
and check out our website  
[www.iccap.net](http://www.iccap.net)



# **Confused about No Cost or Low Cost Prescriptions?**



**You may qualify for prescription assistance directly from pharmaceutical companies. These programs offer more affordable medicine for you and your family!**

**The Community Health Advisory Council in partnership with ICCAP is here to help Indiana County residents who are without prescription drug coverage.**

Help is just a phone  
call away!



**For More Information Contact:**

**Debra Pennington  
Indiana County Community Action Program  
827 Water St., First Floor  
Indiana, PA 15701  
724-465-2657  
dpennington@iccap.net  
www.iccap.net**

# CANDIDS Snapshots



## ➤ New Year's Resolutions.....

What does it mean to have a New Year's Resolution? A resolution is a fresh start, a new beginning, an opportunity to promote change in our lives and not to look back. The past is behind us. Here are a few New Year's Resolutions you may have heard:

1. Lose weight and eat healthier
2. Begin to exercise or exercise more
3. Create a budget to better manage my finances
4. Pay off credit card debts
5. Spend more time with family and friends



Here are a few ICCAP employee's New Year's Resolutions.....

1. Lorna Vite, Executive Director - "Eat healthier"
2. Shirley McCombs, Rental Assistance Counselor - "To get my house and personal paperwork better organized"
3. Erin Kauffman, Intake Counselor - "Meet my goal weight and to be happy"
4. Arlene Anderson, AmeriCorps VISTA - "Exercise more, walk more"
5. Diane Reese-Walters, Asset Development Director - "To look at each day as a blessing from God and to enjoy each moment, not to complain but realize that everything happens for a reason and all I have to do is trust in God."
6. Debby Graff, Outreach Worker - "To organize my life and be less of a conformist."

## ➤ What does it mean to be a volunteer?

What is a volunteer? A volunteer is someone who works for free, serves in the community for the benefit of others. The word originates from the Latin word "voluntarius" and can be translated as will: as in doing "something of one's own free will."

ICCAP wants to thank all of our volunteers – past, present and future. Your time, energy and commitment to ICCAP and the Indiana County residents we serve have made a difference!

*"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*

*Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, Pearl Harbor*

**Please contact Arlene Anderson, AmeriCorps VISTA if you are interested in volunteering @ 724-465-2657, ext. 207**

# Circles Initiative of Indiana County

*Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.*



**Circles** is a community engagement initiative following a highly successful model already operating in Iowa with new initiatives beginning in ten other states including PA. The initiative has been effective in breaking down the barriers of class and race as it supports families who want to move from poverty to self sufficiency. Move the Mountain, the guiding agency located in Iowa, will actively support our Community Action agency as we engage the community to take ownership of eradicating poverty at a local level.

**Circles** initiatives have three primary goals:

- Invite the community to join the human service system in helping people out of poverty.
- Inspire and equip the community to eradicate poverty.
- Develop genuine and lasting relationships across social, economic and class lines with an intention to facilitate low-income people moving permanently out of poverty.

**Circles** are by definition, unique to each person and to each community sponsor. There are however, key elements that are important to make a Circles initiative successful. These are:

- Circles are not mentoring programs. "Circles" mean having 2 or more allies (recruited community members) who will support the participant on their journey toward self-sufficiency.
- Each participant works with the Circle to set goals towards self-sufficiency. The participant of the Circle is supported by the allies in assuming a leadership and decision-making role.
- A holistic approach is taken that focuses on helping participants completely out of poverty and addresses all the barriers inherent in that process. Fundamental supports like cars and cash assistance are made available (Acquired via grants or donations).
- Meetings focused on building community with people across class and cultural lines are held weekly. Free meals and childcare are provided.
- Intentional plan to change the community's mindset on poverty is included in the initiative.
- Participants are given the opportunity and expectation to give back to the community for the support they are receiving.



For more information contact:



Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.  
 Lorna Vite, Executive Director  
 PO Box 187, 827 Water Street  
 Indiana, PA 15701  
 (724) 465-2657 or e-mail: [lvite@iccap.net](mailto:lvite@iccap.net)



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**OFFICE TALK**  
**WHAT'S NEW AT ICCAP**

*Farewell*

*Farewell*

*It's so hard to say goodbye....*

*After 20 years of service Executive Director Sandra K. Dill retires. Sandi began as a volunteer at ICCAP. After 2 years as a volunteer, Sandi was hired by ICCAP and worked as a life skills educator, an intake worker, and then director of the food program. With 12 years as the Executive Director she holds the record with the longest tenure of any leader in the 43 years of the agency.*

*Fran Slansky, Housing Counselor retired after 20 years of service. Fran provided housing counseling that required maintaining information on rental properties and providing services on landlord and tenant issues in Indiana County. Fran also served as the county appointed Fair Housing Advocate.*

*The ICCAP family will miss them and thanks them for their dedication to the mission.*



ICCAP Staff Retreat

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**WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Lorna Vite, ICCAP's new Executive Director  
Congratulations, Scott Daugherty, ICCAP's new Housing Counselor  
We welcome Erin Kauffman, ICCAP's new Intake Counselor  
We welcome Rhonda Nibert, ICCAP's new Deputy Director

## Food Stamp Outreach Program

The Food Stamp Outreach program was initiated to improve the public's understanding of Pennsylvania's Food Stamp Program benefits, increase Food Stamp program participation among targeted populations and track Food Stamp Program applications. ICCAP's Food Stamp Outreach Worker serves Indiana and Cambria Counties' elderly, disabled, and low-income residents by distributing eligibility information and assisting with food stamp application completion through the COMPASS Online service. The household must meet income guidelines to be eligible.



If you feel you may meet the income guidelines and would like more information regarding the Food Stamp Program, please contact ICCAP @ 724-465-2657 or 1-877-463-7440 (this number is for Food Stamp Outreach only).

### Income Guidelines

<u>People in Household</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Income</u>	<u>Net Monthly Income</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>1107</u>	<u>851</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1484</u>	<u>1141</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>1431</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>2238</u>	<u>1721</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>2615</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>2992</u>	<u>2301</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>3369</u>	<u>2591</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>3746</u>	<u>2881</u>

\*\*You can own a house and a car and still qualify

**REMEMBER ... ICCAP's 827 Water Street Office in Indiana has extended office hours until 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday evening for clients who cannot schedule appointments between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

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**ICCAP SERVICES****CASE MANAGEMENT/OUTREACH**

Information and direction on human service programs, budget counseling, advocacy, attainment of self-sufficiency goals and crisis intervention.

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION**

Education for community groups on poverty, recruitment of volunteers and local resources to create community-based solutions to local problems.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Assistance by providing job development, job preparation and intensive case management to program participants in order to find and retain employment.

**ENERGY/WEATHERIZATION**

Installation of energy saving measures for low-income homes, education on conservation and financial help for utility bills.

**FAMILY SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Low-income participants learn personal financial strategies and build capital to help purchase or repair a home, fund a business or pay for higher education.

**FOOD PROGRAM**

Central warehouse and distribution system supplies food boxes to income-eligible families regularly through 19 pantries operated by 250 volunteers.

**DONATIONS**

This program secures donated items from the community and distributes them to individuals in need.

**HOUSING**

Emergency, transitional and permanent housing programs for homeless and low-income families and individuals.

-Loan packaging prepared for special low-interest mortgages for first-time homebuyers.

-Assistance in applying for loans to aid the purchase, building, rehabilitating, improvement or relocation of a dwelling. Assistance in applying for loans/grants to provide a safe water supply/sewage system, or equipment for a household member=s physical handicaps.

-Assistance in applying for relief for those facing mortgage foreclosure.

**REPRESENTATIVE PAYEESHIP**

Assistance for mental health consumers who receive Social Security, Social Security Disability, or Supplemental Security Income to pay monthly bills and budget their resources.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation options related to employment and social service bus tickets to human services appointments.

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I would like to make a tax deductible donation of ( ) \$10 ( ) \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other

Please use my donation where it will help most. ( ) Please use my donation for \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to volunteer my time. My telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contributions may be mailed to: ICCAP, P.O. Box 187, 827 Water Street, Indiana, PA 15701**

Although ICCAP receives federal and state grants, we are not a government agency and must raise funds locally.

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The official registration and financial information of Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. This publication is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Office of Community Services.

**INDIANA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.**

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