



lacasa

Summer 2025

NEW PROGRAM

A Second Chance on Four Wheels



Amber and Cooper receiving the keys to their new vehicle from DeVon Swihart, Financial Empowerment Manager.

Learn more at
lacasainc.net/autoloan

When Amber needed a reliable vehicle to get to work and care for her son Cooper, she found herself stuck. With a low credit score, her only lending options came with sky-high interest rates—often 28% or more—and hidden fees she couldn't afford.

That's where Lacasa's Auto Loan Program comes in.

This new initiative helps working individuals in Elkhart County with low or no credit access fair, affordable vehicle financing. Participants also receive one-on-one financial coaching to build long-term stability—not just make a purchase.

Amber and Cooper became the program's very first success story. Thanks to a fixed-rate loan made possible by Lacasa and Interra Credit Union, they now have a dependable vehicle—and the freedom that comes with it.

For many in our community, a car isn't a luxury. It's a lifeline.

With your support, Lacasa is creating real alternatives to predatory lending and giving families the tools to move forward—safely, confidently, and with dignity.

PARTNERSHIPS



ABOVE: The first of four buildings currently being constructed at Lakeview Drive.

TOP: Lacasa employees along with construction crews enjoying a BBQ onsite hosted by Miller's Building Supply.

Big Projects And Big Partnerships

Big projects don't happen alone. They take vision, partnership, and people who care deeply about building something that lasts.

Right now in Goshen, Lacasa is hard at work on Lakeview Drive, our newest affordable and supportive housing development. When complete, the first phase of this project will offer 35 new rental units for individuals and families, paired with supportive services designed to help residents heal, grow, and thrive.

We expect the first building to be ready in early 2026. This work is only possible thanks to strong community partnerships. We're grateful to the City of Goshen, DJ Construction, Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, and Bashor Children's Home for believing in this project and walking along side us to provide homes for the most vulnerable in our community. A special thank you to Miller's Building Supply for generously providing lunch to the crew during a hot day on site.

NEW HOMES

Meeting the Needs of Our Community

Arbor Ridge Expands With Help From Volunteers



ABOVE: 317 Arbor Court was once a preschool and now is home to 7 new individuals and families.

RIGHT: Goshen College students were among the many hard working volunteers that helped renovate the building.



This summer, we completed the renovation of a long-empty preschool building at 317 Arbor Court, a part of Arbor Ridge, transforming it into seven fully updated 1-bedroom apartments. These new apartments will provide safe, stable housing for individuals and families who need it most.

This project is a powerful example of how Lacasa continues to make the most of what already exists—revitalizing underused spaces to meet the growing need for affordable housing in our community.

With funding from the HOME Investment Partnerships

Program through the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, and the work of Lacasa's Real Estate Development team, a once-vacant building is now ready to welcome new residents.

We couldn't have done it without the help of our incredible volunteers, who brought energy and excitement to every step of the process:

- Goshen Alternative Program – Goshen High School
- Goshen College Residence Life & Engagement Day
- Wabash – “One Wabash” Program
- Clayton Homes

From Dream to Doorstep: Nadia's Homeownership Story



Nadia receiving the keys to her new home from DeVon Swihart, Financial Empowerment Manager.

Nadia is officially a homeowner—and her story is a powerful example of what's possible when trusted guidance, personal commitment, and strong community partnerships come together.

She began her journey through Lacasa's IDA Matched Savings Program, saving \$1,500 and receiving a \$4,500 match. With help from her Housing Counselor, DeVon, she also accessed \$15,000 in down payment support from the City of Goshen.

And thanks to Old National Bank and FHLBank Indianapolis, she received a \$20,000 Launch Grant—bringing her total support to over \$41,000.

"I was hesitant about buying a house. It felt like something adults do—and I'm not quite 'adulty' enough. (I'm turning 49 next month.) I didn't think I'd find something so fast. And now I'm figuring out where to hang pictures in my new place!" - Nadia, Homebuyer

With steady coaching and layered support, Nadia found a home that fits both her budget and her life.

We're grateful to the partners who helped make this possible: City of Goshen, Old National Bank, FHLBank Indianapolis, and Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority.

This is the power of community—and the future your support makes possible.

COMMUNITY

NeighborWorks Week in Action

During NeighborWorks Week, we had the privilege of coming together to support a Goshen resident facing personal challenges that made yard maintenance difficult.

What started as a call for help from concerned neighbors turned into a wonderful display of community care and teamwork. Neighbors, dedicated volunteers, City of Goshen staff, and Lacasa team members all rolled up their sleeves to mow lawns, trim shrubs, remove poison ivy, clean gutters, and clear overgrown sidewalks.

The result was more than a restored yard—it was a powerful reminder that strong neighborhoods thrive when we look out for one another.

NeighborWorks Week celebrates the spirit of resident leadership and partnership. Thanks to your ongoing support, moments like these show how collective action can nurture pride, connection, and resilience—one yard at a time.



Volunteers from West Goshen Neighborhood, City of Goshen and Lacasa staff working together to help a neighbor in need.

Honoring a Community Leader

Cindy Hartzler-Miller, a Chamberlain neighborhood resident, brought her passion for community gardening from Baltimore to Goshen—partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, Purdue Extension, and North Goshen Mennonite Church to create a space where kids learn to grow fresh vegetables and connect with nature, health, and sustainability.



We're proud to celebrate Cindy's impact and her nomination for the NeighborWorks Dorothy Richardson Award, which honors resident leaders making a difference through affordable housing and community engagement.

Her work is rooted in the belief that gardening teaches more than just plant care—it shows kids how a single seed can grow into something nourishing, empowering, and even economically impactful.

"I just want to grow something and then get to eat it!" - Cindy Harzler-Miller

Cindy's leadership reflects the strong spirit of the Chamberlain neighborhood and highlights the power of community-driven change.

HELP-A-HOUSE SPONSORS

KEY



**Ken & Deb
Julian**

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FULL HOUSE

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Barb Swartley &
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Troyer Carpet

2025 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

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Amber Wolfer, *Lake
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Barb Swartley,
*Coldwell Banker Real
Estate Group*

Matt Schrock, *DJ
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Sanford Miller,
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Doug Nisley, *Retired*
Esther Aparacio, *First
State Bank*
Kyle Stiffney, *Goshen
Soccer Academy*

SPOTLIGHT

25 Years of Giving: Barb and Tom Hassan

Barbara and Tom Hassan have supported Lacasa for over 25 years—because they believe in the power of home, community, and giving back.

"We who have, have to give," said my great Aunt Opal, as she slipped a folded \$20 bill into the back pocket of her neighbor. Karl had completed porch repairs for my widowed aunt. I was 7! My grandma Effie, sister Opal, their four siblings, and my great-grandparents lived in a log plank house in the middle of the Mark Twain

Forest in Missouri. Their home was built with the assistance of friends and neighbors.

This unremarkable home provided safety, security, and comfort. Lacasa strives to provide these same qualities through its varied programs. Affordable housing options, financial empowerment classes, and neighborhood integration are pillars of the organization. I have never forgotten the concept of giving, nor the kindness of Karl, whose repairs far exceeded \$20. - Barb Hassan



Barbara and Tom Hassan,
25-Year Supporters of Lacasa

As donors to Lacasa for over 25 years, we give because 'We have, to

SUPPORT LACASA

Help us build strong foundations for everyone:

Donate
lacasainc.net/donate

Volunteer
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SAVE THE DATE

Donor Celebration
October 14, 2025 @ Bread & Chocolate
Lacasa Annual Luncheon
March 11, 2026 @ The Lerner

All Lacasa activities and services are provided without regard to race, age, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran.

Lacasa, Inc. is a Community Development Organization serving Elkhart County. Our programs are designed to improve neighborhoods and strengthen families.



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