



lacasa

Summer 2024

THANK YOU

2024 Friend of Lacasa



Heidi Stoltzfus McHugh, Chief Impact Officer of Lacasa, and Jon Miller, Friend of Lacasa Award recipient.

A highlight for many of us at our Annual Luncheon is recognition of the Friend of Lacasa Award. Each year this award is given to someone whose support of the organization through their gifts of time, talent, and/or treasures exemplifies Lacasa’s mission and values.

So, what sets this year’s Friend apart?

Over the last 10 years, Jon Miller with First State Bank has given countless hours connecting local businesses to Lacasa and raising

significant sponsorships from them to help further our mission through our Help-A-House Fundraising Committee. He connected well-known businesses to sponsor Lacasa. And as noted by committee chair, Amber Wolfer, he always brought an upbeat and positive attitude to our committee meetings and that is so appreciated.

Lacasa and the community impacted by Jon’s dedication are so thankful for Jon’s years of fundraising and connection-making.

NEW UNITS

Less than a year in the making, our new 8-unit apartment building on Division St. in Elkhart was completed and celebrated with an open house in early April. Ground was broken August 1, 2023, and households were moving in by mid-April.

We hosted an open house a few weeks later at our renovated apartments on Madison Street in Goshen. This four-unit building, each with one bedroom, marks the culmination of years of revitalization work in the East Lincoln Crossroads neighborhood in Goshen.

These two projects contribute to a total of 15 new rental units and 22 preserved or rehabilitated units to be completed this year, in addition to building and selling four new homes for home ownership.

ABOVE:
Brad Hunsberger, VP of Real Estate Development, and Goshen Mayor Gina Leichty, cut the ribbon at 419 E. Madison Street.

RIGHT:
Elkhart Mayor Rod Roberson cuts the ribbon along with James Wells from IHCD at 511 Division St.



PARTNERSHIPS

FDIC Helps Promote Housing Stability and Community Development



Featured speakers at the forum were Austin Bair from Lake City Bank (center), and Esther Aparacio from First State Bank (right).

Samantha Sherrod from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) asked Lacasa to collaborate on a forum, Key Partnerships Creating Affordable Homeownership Opportunities in Northern Indiana held in June at our Elkhart office. Participants both in-person and online learned from Lacasa and partners at HUD, Lake City Bank, First State Bank, NeighborWorks America, and IHCDCA on the importance of partnering with agencies like Lacasa.



Pictured Samantha Sherrod from FDIC, Ashley Bowen, Director of Client Empowerment, and Jeremy Stutsman, President/CEO of Lacasa.

New Partnership with Bashor

Lacasa, in collaboration with Bashor Children's Home, is one of four projects selected by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDCA) and Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) to pilot a new housing initiative. The project will develop affordable apartments with supportive services for youth ages 18-23 aging out of foster care, with completion expected by the end of 2025.

"Through Lacasa's 54 years of experience," said Jeremy Stutsman, President/CEO of Lacasa, "we have seen the transformative difference that safe, quality,

and affordable housing can make in people's lives. For youth aging out of foster care, this family safety net is missing, and most need a place to live immediately."

Lacasa plans to develop an 11-unit apartment building in Goshen. The housing will be private, affordable rental apartments, not an emergency shelter or group/transitional housing, owned and operated by Lacasa. Bashor will refer eligible applicants and provide residents with services such as life skills, mental health counseling, job coaching, and GED attainment.

CONGRATULATIONS



Devon Swihart Becomes HUD Certified Housing Counselor

Devon Swihart, Financial and Lending Coach, recently passed the rigorous HUD exam to become a HUD Certified Housing Counselor. HUD counselors play a vital role in assisting individuals in various aspects of housing, including homeownership, foreclosure prevention, rental assistance, and financial literacy. Their expertise helps empower individuals and families to make informed decisions and achieve their housing goals.

Devon Swihart pictured holding his HUD certification. Lacasa now has two HUD certified counselors on staff.



In February, Lacasa staff members spent the day painting at Roosevelt Center with the help of some residents.

YEAR-TO-DATE VOLUNTEERS



12
VOLUNTEER
GROUPS



466
HOURS
VOLUNTEERED



130
INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS



One of the many volunteers from the Goshen Rotary who painted at The Hattle.



Students from the Goshen Alternative Program cleared demo at Arbor Ridge.



Volunteers from ADEC cleaned and painted the stairwell at Roosevelt Center.



Silverwood Mennonite Church volunteers installed a fence at a State St. property.

2024 SPONSORS

KEY SPONSORS



Ken & Deb Julian



Lake City Bank

Fidler Family Fund



MULTI-HOUSE

1st Source Bank
Community Foundation of
Elkhart County
DJ Construction
Everence

First State Bank
Martin Brothers
Construction
Timothy & Marisa Yoder
Yoder-Culp Funeral Home

FULL HOUSE

Assembly Mennonite Church
Community Wide Federal
Credit Union
Tim & Anne Doyle
Elkhart County Board of
Realtors
First Federal Savings Bank
GDC, Inc.
Hoover Feed Service
Jones, Petrie Rafinski, Corp.
Allan Kauffman and Carol
Miller

Kiwanis Club of Goshen, Inc.
L&M Electric
John and Joy Liechty
Mission Woodworking
Monteith's Best-One Tire
Ben & Susan Nelson
Rotary Club of Goshen
Schrock Homes
Silverwood Mennonite
Barb Swartley & Christina
Miller Clauss
Welch Packaging

SUPPORTER

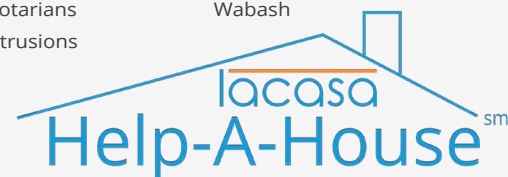
Amy Weatherholt
Bontrager Security
Clarkco, Inc.
Crowe Horwath
Davis & Roose
Edward Jones, Rick Yoder
Goshen Rental Properties
Greenfield Landscape
Services, Inc.

Hertzler Systems, Inc.
Sanford Miller
Roger & Laurie Nafziger
Near North Title Group
San Jose Markets
Carl and Barbara
Westerbeek
Amber & Dirk Wolfer

VOLUNTEER GROUPS TO DATE

ADEC on the Plaza
Clayton Homes
Goshen Alternative Program
Goshen Rotarians
Greater Elkhart Young
Professionals
Elkhart Rotarians
Hydro Extrusions

INterra Credit Union
Lippert - Chassis Division
Prairie Street Mennonite
Church
Silverwood Mennonite
Church
Wabash



RECOGNITION



Roosevelt tenant, TaCiana Morris, receives a plaque from Daniela Panetta, Director of Community Building & Engagement.

Roosevelt Tenant Recognized for Outstanding Work

NeighborWorks America annually recognizes individuals who improve their neighborhoods and foster community engagement. This year, Lacasa's Daniela Panetta nominated Roosevelt Center resident TaCiana Morris for her work in creating Lotus Kids, a program uniting communities through meal sharing. Although she did not win the "Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership," TaCiana's exceptional work is invaluable. She says, "Meal sharing is more than eating with strangers. It's caring and preparing love and family bonds. My food is for your stomach. My help is for your stability."

SAVE THE DATE

2025 Lacasa Annual Luncheon
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
The Lerner Crystal Ballroom
Elkhart, Indiana

[f](#) [@](#) [in](#) @lacasainc

SUPPORT LACASA

Help us build strong foundations for everyone:

Donate
lacasainc.net/donate

Volunteer
lacasainc.net/volunteer



All Lacasa activities and services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, 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.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

202 N. Cottage Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528

lacasa

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GOSHEN, IN
PERMIT NO. 74