



Strong foundations. For everyone.

Help-A-HouseSM Applications Begin!

Starting now, we are accepting applications for Lacasa's help-a-house program. Help-A-House is a partnership between Lacasa and the City of Goshen that uses Community Development Block Grant funds, sponsorships, gifts, and volunteers to improve homes and neighborhoods.

Homeowners who may qualify:

Own and live
in your home

Live Within
Goshen City
Limits

Under Income
Limits
(ex. Family of 4 is
\$48,900)

For more information, you can visit our Help-A-House page: lacasainc.net/help-a-house. If you think you qualify, you can apply at our Goshen office or you can go to lacasainc.net/apply.

****Applications are first come, first serve and due by March 1, 2019. Availability is limited****

How You Can Help:

Volunteering:

Are you a business, church, service club, or individual that would like to volunteer? If you've answered yes, please go to lacasainc.net/volunteer and sign up today!

Donate:

If you are an individual who would like to help donate to Help-A-House, please go to lacasainc.net/donate.

Sponsors:

If you would like to become a sponsor and make an impact in the community, please call or email Heidi Stoltzfus McHugh at 574-533-4450 or Heidi.McHugh@lacasainc.net.

Help-A-HouseSM 2018

29th

Annual

248

Volunteers

1,295

Hours worked

15

Sites in Goshen

14

Volunteer groups
(churches, service clubs, and businesses),
as well as many individual volunteers

Looking Forward to 2019



Happy New Year and welcome to Lacasa 2019! I'm looking forward to working alongside you in this coming year.

Every day is a new day and in that sense, nothing changes when the calendar flips over. To me though, there is always a sense of newness when entering a new calendar year. There are three words that I am meditating on as I think about going into 2019: excellence, accountability, and action.

■ **Excellence:** The expectation of excellence relates strongly to a core belief of mine that all of us are capable of a lot more than we realize. We need coaches, peers, and mentors who call out our potential. I hope we play this role with the people we serve and we can only do that if we start with ourselves and each other. There is inherent discomfort in the pursuit of excellence. Importantly though, excellence is not perfection.

■ **Accountability:** Excellence is impossible without the practice of accountability. This practice cuts both ways, meaning we actively seek feedback, different viewpoints, and critique as well as offer it. Holding accountable (with the right attitude) is an act of selflessness in that it says we care enough to set aside the comfort of avoiding confrontation to experience the discomfort of a difficult conversation. Humility is critical. I've given feedback only to find out that my estimation of the situation was incomplete or flat wrong. As long as I've been able to acknowledge this, it's still a net win. Better understanding has been achieved.

■ **Action:** Action is risky. Action happens and cannot be erased, only learned from. Action is messy because sometimes it is the wrong action, and even when it is right, the execution is never perfect. Action takes vulnerability. Action is prerequisite to impact. Our strategic plan demands action and more significantly, the forces of instability that afflict our target population demand action. I don't want to let perfectionism or fear stand in the way of progress. For me, action is as much a personal resolution as a Lacasa resolution and I am choosing to embrace the vulnerability that comes with it.

I wish you fulfilling year, wherever it takes you. I hope you see and experience many blessings, as well as the opportunities that always exist in challenges. I'm learning to appreciate the struggle as much as the victory. I like the victory better, but I appreciate the struggle. Some stress and challenge is needed to stimulate growth and I made a commitment a long time ago to be a person who constantly pursues growth. Lacasa has also made that choice. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,
Chris Kingsley
President/CEO

In Memoriam

On November 14, 2018, Mike Leasor passed away at the age of 76. Mike served on Lacasa's Board of Directors and was crucial in the hiring of Larry Gautsche as Lacasa's CEO in 2001. "Mike was a great advocate for Lacasa and a good friend", said Larry Gautsche. "Mike was a big advocate of Help-A-House, referring homeowners, providing building department support, and always on the job the day of the event."

Memorial contributions may be given to Lacasa or to the College Mennonite Church.



Client Success



Tyreisha Robinson came to Lacasa in June to inquire about our IDA programs. She knew that she wanted to purchase a home but did not know where to begin. Her goal was to purchase a home for her five children and herself by the end of 2018. Tyreisha took Money 4 Life classes and worked with Lacasa's Financial Empowerment Team. By September, Tyreisha was preapproved for a home.

She hoped to find a home and close by the end of the year. Tyreisha was able to close on her home on November 27th. Since taking Money 4 Life, her credit score has gone up and she has saved a significant amount of money. Tyreisha believes she could have eventually met her goal of purchasing her home on her own, however, it would have taken her around six more months. For Tyreisha, that would have impacted her by more money going to rent instead of investing in her home. Lastly, her goal was to purchase by the end of December and she was able to purchase a month earlier.

Areas of Impact in 2018



7 Multi-family units built
(28 planned in 2019-2020)



50+ Families achieved
homeownership



360+ People helped
through Immigration
Counseling



300+ Graduates of
Money 4 Life Program



Philipp Gollner was looking to purchase a new home and a friend recommended he work with Lacasa. Philipp worked with our Financial Empowerment team and attended Home Buyer Education classes. Philipp found the home buyer class to be especially useful. He said, "Even more than the home buyer class, having the chance to ask all the questions I had whenever I had them (especially as I came closer to closing) was very helpful." Philipp knows he would have been able to purchase a home on his own but "having the matched savings account made things move much faster".

Philipp was able to purchase his house with the assistance of Lacasa's housing counselor, Joel Zwier. Philipp said, "I am grateful for all the patience shown me. The advice given by Joel and Lacasa was valuable. This all was very helpful to me as things progressed."

Project Update - 114 S 7th St, Goshen



Correction: In our previous newsletter, an upcoming project was misnamed as AMBS Permanent Supportive Housing. This project is only located near the AMBS campus and will be known as Benham Avenue Apartments.

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. Lacasa's programs are open to all people regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin or religion.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

202 N Cottage Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528
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