

# lacasa

Strong foundations. For everyone.

## New Permanent Supportive Housing Project Underway



Lacasa celebrated its newest building project, Benham Avenue Apartments, with a groundbreaking ceremony on July 8 at the site in Elkhart. Benham Avenue Apartments is a permanent supportive housing (PSH) property for homeless individuals in partnership with Oaklawn. It will be the fourth property in this program partnership since 2012.

"PSH is just one part of the solution in addressing homelessness," said Lacasa president/CEO, Chris Kingsley. "PSH is an extremely important piece by

providing an affordable, safe environment for as long as each individual needs it. Our partners at Oaklawn steadfastly work with our community members experiencing homelessness, and we recognize that it takes many types of housing to sustainably address the issues," continued Kingsley.

Bonita Schrock, Oaklawn's chief clinical officer said, "Housing is very important to both the physical and mental health of our community and we're excited to be a partner in this project to provide more housing in Elkhart."

When complete in spring 2020, Benham Avenue Apartments will consist of 11 one-bedroom apartments each with about 550 square feet of living space, along with a community room and laundry room. "Looking ahead to 2020, our 50th anniversary year, we're pleased that one of the first projects to be completed is Benham Avenue Apartments in Elkhart," said Kingsley. "It's one example of the ways in which multiple organizations can partner to address systemic issues and bring value to our community."

For more details and full media coverage, see our website at <https://lacasainc.net/about-us/news/>.

## Client Feature: Maleka Accomplishes Her Goals

With goals to reduce her debt and work toward homeownership, Maleka came to Lacasa for a partner to make it happen, though the process was not without surprises. "My biggest surprise along this path was the pregnancy and birth of my now 2 year old son," Maleka said. "This was unexpected and definitely a challenge on my finances."

Maleka kept moving forward. "Life has gone up from that point. I got a promotion and my finances turned around." She purchased a home through Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County and used the money saved through her Lacasa matched savings account (IDA) for the purchase.



"When people think about Lacasa, they immediately think of housing. I think more than anything it's the tools I received to change my financial situation that I want others to know about. Gaining knowledge to improve credit and finances while on the way to becoming a homeowner."

# Thank You To Our Sponsors

## Help-A-House 2019

On Saturday, May 11, 250 volunteers gave 1,177 hours to work on homes of 9 Goshen homeowners.

Lead Sponsor:



Key Sponsors:



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### Help-A-House Fundraising Committee:

Amber Wolfer, Chair, Lake City Bank  
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Sanford Miller  
Jon Miller, First State Bank  
Matt Schrock, DJ Construction  
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# s, Partners, and Supporters

## Annual Meeting

Over 250 partners met in March at the Lerner Crystal Ballroom in Elkhart to look ahead and to celebrate Lacasa's impact in 2018.

Lead Sponsor:



Event Sponsors:



Table Plus Sponsors:



## Financial Freedom Fair

On June 1, Lacasa and members of the Elkhart Chamber Leadership Academy provided financial coaching and kids activities to 36 families.



## Summer Academy

June 12 to July 24, 111 students spent the summer with 28 Staff, Instructors, and Volunteers participating in activities such as Basketball, Photography, Art, Drumming, Podcasting/DJ, Gymnastics, and many others.

Sponsors:



Ivy Tech  
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Additional Support From:

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# New VP Announced - Sheila Sieradzki



Lacasa, Inc. is thrilled to welcome Sheila Sieradzki as our new VP Client Empowerment Services. Sheila has an extensive background and education in financial planning and the financial industry. In her most recent role, she was instrumental in building a local banking partner's presence and business in Elkhart County. She also created and delivered workplace financial education curricula with employers in our community. Sheila's robust resume, strong reputation, talent, leadership, and passion for empowering people will be key as Lacasa continues its work to be the premier provider of financial empowerment services in Elkhart County.

From Sheila: "After many years in financial services, I am thrilled to join Lacasa, Inc. as VP of Client Empowerment Services. This role is very near to my heart as I have spent my career providing authentic personal attention to my clients. Connecting with our community and providing what is needed most will be such an important part of my team's work. The fundamental idea of personal empowerment is about giving people the tools they need to pave their own way through strength and confidence."

"It will be my pleasure to further expand Lacasa's Financial Empowerment and Immigration Services into Elkhart and to be part of the senior leadership team that will lead Lacasa into the next 50 years of success!"

To contact Sheila, please email or call her at [sheila.sieradzki@lacasainc.net](mailto:sheila.sieradzki@lacasainc.net) or 574-533-4450.

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

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