



From the CEO

50 Years of Service



Chris Kingsley,
President / CEO

With contributions from:

Nathan Mateer Rempel
Outgoing Board Chair

Deb Jones
Incoming Board Chair

We are officially in our 50th anniversary year! We celebrate accomplishments past, present and future throughout this 50th year, and are honored to be a part of a mission that has made such an impact and garnered passionate participation since 1970. All of us involved with this mission of creating opportunity for personal empowerment, family stability, and neighborhood vitality feel both a sense of achievement as we reflect on the successes of the past and inspiration as we think about the impact we can make in the decades to come.

A strong belief in the dignity of all people drove a group of concerned community members to take action to better the living conditions of migrant farm workers in the late '60's and early '70's. While the "what" of Lacasa's activities has grown and evolved over the decades, the "why" has not. We still believe strongly in work that respects human dignity. As we create strategies and design programs and services, we continue to equip people and communities to unlock their potential.

It is powerful work and we strive to do it with excellence.

Our impact grows. In February, we open a new office on Main St. in Elkhart. This office will make a huge difference for people located in the northern part of the county who need our services. It allows us to offer a full class schedule and one-on-one financial empowerment and immigration services to people in Elkhart without a transportation barrier. This is a milestone for Lacasa that embodies and symbolizes our commitment to a growing mission impact.

As the people appointed to provide leadership to this work, we ask you to consider personally significant gifts to Lacasa throughout this 50th anniversary year. Your contributions are the difference-maker as availability of state and federal funding shrinks. We invite conversations with you about ways to contribute and further the sustainability of this mission.

Lacasa Opening New Elkhart Location

Grand Opening Celebration on February 27, 2020



Lacasa, Inc. is excited to announce the grand opening of Lacasa – Elkhart, located at 516 S. Main Street in Elkhart, to kick off our 50th year in Elkhart County. The new office location will have a grand opening celebration and open house on February 27th from 4pm to 6pm. Lacasa – Elkhart is expected to open to the community starting in March to connect more families and individuals to Lacasa programs and services in Elkhart County.

“The accessibility of this location right in the heart of the revitalizing downtown area has transformative potential,” Chris Kingsley, Lacasa’s President/CEO said about the impact of the new location.

Lacasa will offer on-site classes, one-on-one financial coaching and counseling, immigration services, and first-time homebuyer education in Elkhart. Community members will be able to work with Financial Empowerment counselors in a one-on-one environment to develop a roadmap to build credit, reduce debt, and/or work towards homeownership. Lacasa will also offer classes on topics from mastering money basics, building credit to purchase a home, and understanding student loan debt.

In addition to the newly created office space, there will be a 750 square foot business space available to rent. This will provide visibility in the downtown Elkhart area with close proximity to numerous landmarks, entertainment, and dining experiences.



Determination and Patience Leads to Homeownership

Lenquesha Collins came to Lacasa with a dream and determination of homeownership. She worked with Lacasa’s Financial Empowerment team to create a roadmap to homeownership and explore opportunities such as Lacasa’s Dream\$avers IDA matched savings program. She says, “I had to make choices about buying things for now or saving for a big project like [a home].”

Lenquesha started by attending Lacasa’s Money 4 Life class. She shared, “Money 4 Life taught me to distinguish between needs and wants, keeping good credit and building an emergency fund. You can do stuff yourself and save yourself money in the process.” The Money 4 Life class gave Lenquesha

the tools to make long-term financial gains and she worked with Joel Zwier, Lenquesha’s Financial Empowerment Counselor, to begin saving for a home.

Lenquesha saved for a down payment and purchased her home. She shared, “Lacasa did play an important role for me to become a homeowner. Having the matched savings account helped me keep my emergency funds intact and not have to use them for down payment.” After completing everything she felt excited to begin this next step in her life. She said, “I have more confidence to conquer the world! I don’t think I’ll ever be in a financial crisis.”



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

27 | Lacasa - Elkhart Grand Opening
4pm 516 South Main Street, Elkhart

MARCH

07 | ADEC Resource Fair*
9am Goshen College Music Center, Goshen

12 | Founder's Day*
10am Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Goshen

18 | Lacasa's Annual Luncheon
12pm Crystal Ballroom, Elkhart

24 | Lacasa's 50th Anniversary Celebration
7pm College Mennonite Church, Goshen

APRIL

27 | Neighborhood Leadership Brunch
9am Lacasa - Goshen

MAY

09 | Help-A-HouseSM Community Work Day
Goshen

For more details, go to lacasainc.net/events

* Lacasa is a participant in these events



Update

Help-A-HouseSM Applications Kick-Off

Starting now, Lacasa is accepting applications for Lacasa's Help-A-HouseSM program. Help-A-HouseSM 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.

**Help-A-HouseSM will be on the second Saturday of May
(May 9th, 2020).**

Homeowners who may qualify:

- Own your home
- Live in your own home
- Live within Goshen city limits
- Under income limits (*example – family of 4 would be about \$52,000*)

For more information, you can visit Help-A-HouseSM page at **lacasainc.net/help-a-house**. If you think you qualify, you may pick up an application at our Goshen office or go to lacasainc.net/contact.

Applications are due by March 20th, 2020.

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.



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