



# COMMUNITY MATTERS

*Building Community. Enriching Lives.*



## LEADERSHIP LENS

*A Message from Savannah Whicker, CEO*

As we welcome the warmth and renewal of May, there's a fresh energy in the air—one that reflects the momentum we're feeling here at ECHO Housing & Community Development. This past month was nothing short of inspiring. April brought a flurry of activity, connection, and progress that continues to fuel our mission.

We were thrilled to host the CAN Summit, where community leaders, service providers, and residents came together to explore bold, collaborative strategies for addressing complex social needs. The conversations and partnerships sparked during the summit will continue to shape our work in the months ahead.

We also celebrated the launch of our Social Ecosystem Mapping Dashboard, now live on our website under the Community Development section. This tool offers a dynamic look into how resources, relationships, and systems interact within our region—making invisible networks visible, and helping us all better understand where the opportunities and gaps lie.

In addition, we're excited to welcome several new team members to the ECHO family! Each brings unique skills and passion that will strengthen our programs and deepen our impact.

As we move into May, we're focused on supporting our partners—those doing the hard, necessary work every day to lift up our neighbors and build stronger, more equitable communities. Together, we're creating the conditions where everyone can thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.



## CLIENT QUOTE

*"You all are making a positive impact on a lot of people's lives and although they may make it harder for you to help at times you always greet them with a smile because you know where they are coming from and see their potential."*



## Mission

Improving lives by reducing barriers to housing, social wellbeing, and economic opportunity

## Vision

Our vision is a community where housing, social wellbeing and economic opportunities are accessible to all, fostering a thriving and compassionate society where every person can reach their full potential.

## Core Values

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Innovation
- Advocacy

## Board of Directors

Dane Chandler - President  
*Banterra Bank*

Stephen Feistel, Vice President  
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TJ Summers  
*YMCA*

Rob Foncannon  
*Foncannon CPA Group*



Thank you for St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Guild for inviting us to speak and offering a generous donation to our Veteran Programs! We can't do what we do without YOU!

**2ND QTR POSITIVE PEER AWARD - MERRICK KORACH**



Merrick Korach, Community Development Director, has shown remarkable dedication, positivity, and leadership in advancing our community development work. From launching the Collective Action Network and planning its inaugural summit to leading the rollout of the Visible Network Labs platform, his efforts have been both inspiring and far-reaching. He continues to make a real difference. Thank you, Merrick!



**ECHO Events**  
SCAN QR FOR DETAILS  
[CLICK TO LINK HERE](#)

**HOUSE OF BREAD & PEACE**  
*Cash Raffle is back!*  
TICKET SALES BEGIN 8/1  
DRAWING ON 10/24

.....●.....  
**6TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE**  
*Scramble For Housing*  
OCTOBER 8, 2025

.....●.....  
**1ST ANNUAL PATRIOT GALA**  
*Coming Home to Casablanca*  
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

*Thank you* to our generous awareness sponsors for supporting the **2025 Casual for a Cause: Serving Those Who Served!** Your partnership helps us honor and uplift our veterans in need.



**New Opportunities for Wellness**  
Empowering Wellness.  
Inspiring Change



**Performance Holdings LLC**

Family of Mike Whicker



**Lord's Harvest Church, Tennyson**



**BRICKYARD**  
BRENTWOOD Healthcare  
The only Evansville Long-Term Care Provider for eligible Veterans



Let's Get Social

- @ECHOHousingCorp
- @echo\_housing\_corp
- @ECHO\_Housing\_
- @echo\_housing
- ECHO Housing
- echohousing.org

Administrative Offices  
528 Main Street Suite 202  
Evansville, IN 47708

812-423-8422  
[info@echohousing.org](mailto:info@echohousing.org)



## Collective Action Network (CAN) Summit 2025 Recap

On Wednesday, April 16, a full day of connection, collaboration, and community impact unfolded at the University of Southern Indiana's Carter Hall. Neighbors, advocates, and leaders came together—not just to talk, but to listen, to learn, and to lead. In a room full of possibility, residents took the lead. Their voices, their stories, and their solutions guided the way during a powerful resident-led panel that reminded us: lasting change starts with the people most affected.

Dr. Danielle Varda, our keynote speaker, challenged us to think like network scientists—to recognize the strength of our relationships and how collaboration fuels transformation.

Then, the real work began—in six hands-on breakout sessions designed to spark ideas and inspire action: In **“Better Together: Aligning for Impact,”** we talked about root causes of what is keeping us from truly coming together to celebrate and amplify the good works that are taking place. We would be a stronger city altogether if we weren't busy competing and putting our pride above our community. **“The Housing Puzzle”** brought together advocates and residents to explore what's missing in our housing system and how we can build a more inclusive housing pipeline. In **“Breaking Barriers: Building an Inclusive Community,”** voices were raised to confront social, civic, and cultural inequities. The group brainstormed solutions rooted in equity and belonging. **“Classrooms and Beyond”** challenged us to think bigger about education—recognizing that student success is a community effort that extends far beyond the walls of a school. **“Resources: Navigating Help Without the Hassle”** gave participants a real look at the challenges residents face in accessing support—and offered hands-on experience with tools that can break those barriers down.

Every room, every discussion, every moment echoed the same truth: real change begins when we build it together. This wasn't just a summit. It was a spark—a shared commitment to doing the work, side by side. Thank you to every resident, every leader, and every partner who showed up to make this vision real. The work continues. And **together, we are building the kind of community we all deserve. \*\*Stay tuned on our website for next steps!**



### ONGOING NEEDS @ HOUSE OF BREAD & PEACE

.....●.....

- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Baby Wipes
- Trash Bags
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Larger-Sized Diapers
- Body Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Towels/Washcloths
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Backpacks



Amazon will deliver straight to the House. Or to arrange a drop off at 250 E. Chandler, call 812-425-6754

HBP Amazon Wish List

### LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE HOUSE?

The raffle is back! Tickets go on sale on 8/1. Drawing is 10/24. Stay tuned!

#### BENEFITING HOUSE OF BREAD & PEACE

## \$20,000 Cash RAFFLE

Only 1200 Tickets Sold

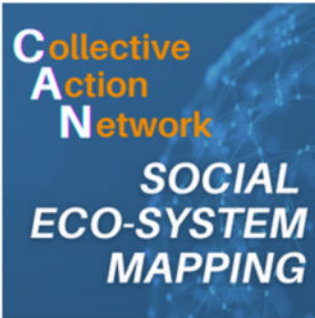
Tickets \$60/each

8 Tickets drawn

GRAND PRIZE \$10,000

- 1 - \$10,000 winner
- 1 - \$5,000 winner
- 1 - \$2,000 winner
- 1 - \$1,000 winner
- 4 - \$500 winners





## Eco-System Mapping is LIVE!

ECHO Housing & Community Development is proud to partner with Visible Network Labs (VNL) to launch a community-wide Social Ecosystem Mapping initiative. This powerful tool allows us to visualize and evaluate the complex web of individuals, organizations, and institutions working together across Evansville’s social, physical, and economic development sectors.

This initiative supports our Collective Action Network (CAN) by identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration in real time—helping us move from isolated impact to unified progress.

## HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

### CELEBRATING OUR INCREDIBLE INTERNS



A heartfelt shout-out to four amazing young women—**Leah, Emily, Jessica, and Heather**—who have been a true blessing to House of Bread and Peace, Promise Home, and Lucas Place this semester.

These interns jumped in earlier this year and made a big impact—helping to organize operations at HBP while gaining valuable skills in their fields of study. As the semester wraps up and graduation approaches, we know we’ll miss their energy, dedication, and heart.

Congratulations, graduates! We wish you all the best on your next adventure—you’ll always be part of the ECHO family.

Volunteers from **Saint Benedict Cathedral** have dropped off donations to House of Bread and Peace every week during lent. Thank you, for not only delivering vital items to the shelter, but also for your kindness and helpfulness! You are appreciated!



**WELCOME TO THE TEAM**

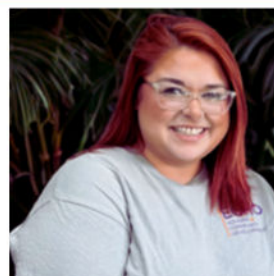
LOOK OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE ABOUT OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



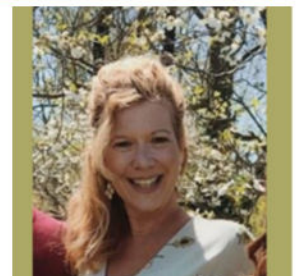
Dayne Bogard  
Program Director



Makayla Dillard  
Scattered Sites



Jacy Robertson  
Garvin Lofts



April Hicks  
Promise Home