

Grace Lutheran Door Offering to Help *Hope Southern Indiana*

Weekends of September 26 and October 3

Our Community Needs Your Help.

Check Out the most recent information from the Director, Angie Graf.

Hope Southern Indiana has been a beacon of hope in New Albany since 1964; the Downtown Neighborhood Council which started as 3 churches has grown into something much larger. This past year gave us ample opportunities to increase collaborations within our community. Today we partner with 54 churches as well as, Metro United Way, Dare To Care, the New Albany Township Trustee, Salvation Army, the Homeless Coalition, St. Vincent de Paul, Work One, the County Commissioners, and more all working together to make the most impact on our community. We are all seeing increasing need and in some cases record numbers of people needing help.

Our services have monumentally increased since the pandemic.

HOUSING-FINANCIAL SERVICES

	FY 2019-2020 * COVID	FY 2020-2021 (COVID)	FY 2021-2022 (COVID)
July	\$1,543	\$14,185 *	\$24,494 *
August	\$1,876	\$8,996 *	\$28,578*
September	\$1,137	\$8,372 *	
October	\$600	\$10,303 *	
November	\$1,198	\$5,324 *	
December	\$596	\$11,406 *	
January	\$1,154	\$6,084 *	
February	\$1,445	\$18,744 *	
March	\$5,276 *	\$3936 *	
April	\$6,495 *	\$7,452 *	
May	\$4,425 *	\$13,325 *	
June	\$12,077 *	\$11,106 *	



- Walk-Ins have increased
- Clients have exhausted community resources (some once a year)
- Cost of Living has increased
- Evictions are on the rise
- Unite Us referrals increasing
- Quarantine mandates due to schools sending kids home (loss of hours)
- Low & middle Income households in need (higher rents)
- Late charges and fees
- Landlord strain
- Mental Health needs increasing
- Indiana Housing Now website may take 5-6 weeks for relief



UTILITY BILLS-FINANCIAL SERVICES

	FY 2019-2020 * COVID	FY 2020-2021 (COVID)	FY 2021-2022 (COVID)
July	\$3,361	\$3,219 *	\$15,714 *
August	\$3,331	\$4,700 *	\$24,260 *
September	\$6,052	\$4,725 *	
October	\$4,504	\$2,818 *	
November	\$527	\$1,749 *	
December	\$259	\$530 *	
January	\$492	\$-- *	
February	\$1,361	\$475 *	
March	\$ 557*	\$816 *	
April	\$2,134 *	\$3,017 *	
May	\$-- *	\$6,028 *	
June	\$375*	\$4,820 *	



EAP-Energy Assistance Program

*Did not run during the summer 2021 (May-August)

*Many of our fixed income residents rely on the EAP program to help with increases in utility usage during the summer

*Clients may have already exhausted other resources (some once a year)



The Indy Star: "Evictions in Indianapolis and throughout Indiana may surge following the Supreme Court's decision on Thursday to end the federal eviction moratorium, leaving local housing advocates and government officials to deal with an escalating eviction crisis alongside a public health crisis". Aug. 27, 2021

We have been fortunate to have access to CARES Act funding and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding over the last few months to help with the increasing need.

Mayor Gahan stepped in quickly with American Rescue Plan funding to make an immediate impact and is in the process of sending more relief. The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana as well as Metro United Way have increased the amounts and frequency of grants to help slow down the spike in need. Our church partners have stepped up and many are seeing an increase in need through their benevolence funding.

When dealing with social services at Hope, it is not as simple as "get a job" when we are assessing our clients' needs. We cannot take that approach with anyone that walks through the doors. For some, just walking in the doors to seek help is difficult, many embarrassed and in tears. Since March 2020, we have served 998 families that have never had to visit a food pantry or request financial assistance before, including 99 seniors and 644 children.

There are many factors as to why we are seeing our numbers going up.

- Clients have exhausted community resources (some once a year)
- Cost of Living has increased (gas, milk, food)
- Evictions are on the rise
- Quarantine mandates due to schools sending kids home for covid tracing (income, loss of hours)
- Low & middle Income households In need (higher rents)
- Late charges and fees adding up
- Landlord strain (May not rent to a prior eviction)

- Mental Health needs increasing
- Indiana Housing Now website may take 5-6 weeks for relief
- *Businesses closing day to day due to lack of employees
- * Loss of community programs

We have a client that has 2 children and works as a server. Her employer was not able to open several days in a row due to not having enough employees to open; she was sent home. Day after day she tried to go to work, meanwhile she is not collecting unemployment and not getting paid for the days she is not working. This is a direct result of Covid-19. She is now behind on her rent.

We are assisting a single mom with 3 children, she cannot work her day job and have 3 kids at home when school is not in session or when they are quarantined. She cannot work third shift due to being a single parent, there is no one to watch her children. She is struggling to make ends meet. It is not as simple as "get a job". We need to be compassionate with our clients and understand that everyone has a reason for asking for help.

Several clients have expressed a concern over their teens mental health and have lost hours at work to ensure their safety when at home alone.

It's crucial for families to have a safety net like Hope SI and many other social service agencies in the community for those in need. Join us in prayer for the needs of the community, love your neighbors, be compassionate and kind, Covid has impacted us in ways many will never understand.

Love God, Love Others,

Angela Graf

Executive Director

Hope Southern Indiana

"A Faith Based Non-Profit Ministry Serving the Whole Community – since 1964"

Brown-Starks Neighborhood Place

1200 Bono Rd. (Corner of Bono & Graybrook)

New Albany, IN 47150

Phone: [812.948.9248](tel:812.948.9248) Ext. 1009

Direct Line:812-258-9157

Check out our website: www.hopesi.org.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeSouthernIndiana>