



Gary
Chamber
of
Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 3

March 2021

Lifeline

Please visit us @www.garychamber.com and catch a *lifeline*...



Rob Avery VP
Gov't Loan Manager



Kathy Ireland, VP
Senior Loan Officer



Economic Impact of COVID-19 Financial Relief Options for NWI Businesses

February 17 featured a webinar presented by the Gary Chamber's Economic/Business Development Committee with host Cynthia Roberts, Dean, IUN School of Business and Economics and Telethia Barrett, Horizon Bank Gary.

Attendees of the webinar learned about Horizon's Covid-19 Economic Impact Funding. The Panelists, Kathy Ireland and Robert Avery gave great insight as to what is available and how to qualify. They spoke to over 30 Business participants and will be speaking with union leaders and business leaders who are seeking more details. To get in touch with Kathy: 219-750-1218, kireland@horizonbank.com or Robert: 317-218-4034, ravery@horizonbank.com. If your

organization is looking to partner with Horizon Bank for community growth and development please contact Telethia Barrett, Community Lender, CRA at 219-200-4045, tbarrett@horizonbank.com.



NIPSCO is accepting applications for its environmental action grant to support local nonprofit organizations with environmental stewardship initiatives through April 2, 2021. In its sixth year, NIPSCO's Environmental Action Grant continues a tradition of funding restoration and education projects throughout northern Indiana.

Grants are available in amounts from \$500 to \$5000. For grant information visit: NIPSCO.com/Environment.



Lake Area United Way granted the Salvation Army Lake County with \$500,000 for continuing COVID-19 relief.

The funds have been used to support individuals and heads of household who have lost jobs or reduced work hours, to pay for mortgage/rent, utility, and food assistance.

A portion of the funds will be used to hire more staff to better serve clients. For more grant information and United Way services visit: www.unitedway.org.



Centier Bank \$52,000 Donation

A record \$52,000 was donated to Lake Area United Way. The Merrillville-based Centier Bank, raised the money through its workplace campaign with employee donations and corporate gift.

The donation will help provide families with their basic needs, support & access to quality childcare and better paying jobs.



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Education Committee School-to-Careers Initiative

The Education Committee for the past few months has focused on what a viable collaborative of business, education, and workforce development needs to look like for the city of Gary so

that its youth, young adults, and displaced workers can thrive.

Many businesses making up the Gary Chamber have conferred to invest in our community by working with its education and workforce development providers to come up with a talent pipeline development strategy that ensures the city residents exit from those providers fully equipped (ready-to-work) to fulfill the needs of employers

Over 30 businesses from the region joined in a virtual (zoom) coming of minds on February 24 to hear what the business community needs from its talent pipeline, and share with the community their capacity in satisfying those needs.

Businesses interested will be contacted to supply the Chamber further info on what it is they can do towards this initiative. If you are a business that was not in attendance in the virtual meeting and can provide a service towards this endeavor call the Chamber office (219) 885-7407 and share.



A new name-formerly Accion is now Allies for Community Business, Serving Illinois & Indiana. A4CB provides the capital, coaching, and collaboration entrepreneurs need to grow great businesses in their communities.

A4CB is working with our partner Community Reinvestment Fund to offer PPP loans to small businesses located in Illinois and Indiana. Together with CRF, we are committed to serving the small businesses who previously struggled to access PPP loans.

In addition visit: www.a4cb.org, our new website for the latest small business grant opportunities. Local contact to call is: Amanda Askew 312.924.2158

What's Up Chuck?



Chuck Hughes

What Pandemic!

As President / CEO of the Gary Chamber of Commerce I would like to commend our committee members and leadership on the outstanding job that they are doing in maintaining our quality work standards and developing initiatives that will serve the Gary community and our overall membership well.

Thank you for answering your call to serve.



Gifts Continue!

The Methodist Hospitals Foundation received a \$10,000 gift from United States Steel Corporation-Gary Works, on behalf of Methodist Hospitals. The gift will support the hospitals COVID-19 Response Fund which was established in March 2020.

As a corporate partner, Gary Works

previous in-kind donation of more than 400 N95 masks was essential at a time when PPE equipment was strained nationwide. Photo (l-r) Methodist Board Chair Robert E. Johnson III, Methodist Hospitals foundation Board President Heather McCarthy, Methodist Hospitals President & CEO Matt Doyle, U.S. Steel Vice President Dan Killeen, Methodist Hospitals Chief of Advocacy Denise Dillard.

NEVER SAY GOODBYE



Lisa M. Daugherty

Well wishes are in order for two outstanding Chamber members.

Lisa Daugherty, the outgoing President/CEO of the Lake Area United Way—who will become President/CEO of the Center of Workforce Innovations.

Lisa is taking the place of the retiring President & CEO of 20 years, Linda Woloshansky.

The Chamber is grateful for the partnerships and collaborations working with Linda and her team.

We can't wait to partner with Lisa and continue the great working relationship we have had over the years.



Linda Woloshansky

**Our Goal is Member Satisfaction...
Become a Chamber Member Today!**

Mark Your Calendars—Chamber Membership News

- ▶ The Northern Indiana Chapter of The Links, Inc., in partnership with Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC), Community Advocates of Northern Indiana (CANI), Edgewater Health, Gary Chamber of Commerce, and the NAACP, held an informative webinar on February 18, *Wash Up, Mask Up, Separate, & Vaccinate: The Reluctance & Relevance of COVID-19 Vaccinations for People of Color*. To view the recording of the webinar visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r-rjn9w3ZQ>.
- ▶ **First Financial Bank and Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance (NWIRA)** partnered to help 13 minority owned businesses. The small businesses will share \$40,000 in grant funds. The Diverse Women in Business Initiative, a new program for the NWIRA known for promoting fair housing and fair lending, was a interracial part of its' members obtaining the grants. For addition information on grant/loan opportunities call: Wendy Gasior , Manager Gary Branch 219.227.3353.
- ▶ **The Gary Historical and Cultural Society (GHCS)** founded in 1976 by Gary's Historian, the late Mrs. Dharathula (Dolly) Millender celebrates it's 45th Anniversary of service to the citizens of Gary and northwest Indiana. Dolly was always invited to share Gary's history throughout the region. By knowing our unique history, Dolly's legacy will live on forever.
- ▶ **Celebrate National Nurses Week.** Nominate a nurse today! Celebrate a nurse by nominating one who has made an impact in the lives of others. Ten honorees will be featured in a special section in The Times. Visit: nwi.com/nurses.
- ▶ **March 4, 2021—Aperion Care Tolleston Park** invites you to the **Virtual Grand Opening** of the new Behavioral Health Unit "Harmony". Join via Facebook Live at 4:30 p.m. Pre-register for a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes. Call Shameia Pope (219) 895-5417 (see attached flyer).
- ▶ **March 7, 2021—The Times Media Company** "Virtual Anywhere Career Fair" will soon end. This is the easiest way to connect with employers from local markets and beyond, 384 companies, 54 different markets and over 20 employers in the region to choose from. Register online: gethired.anywherecareerfair.com (see flyer).
- ▶ **March 12, 2021 – Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana Vendor Info Session.** Become a part of music history, learn about the products & services Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana will need from the community, ArtHouse: A Social Kitchen, 411 E. 5th Avenue, Gary. RSVP required to attend visit: hardrockcasinonorthernindiana.com (see flyer).
- ▶ **March 17, 2021—GCC Economic/Business Development Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- ▶ **March 22, 2021—GCC Executive Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ **March 25, 2021—GCC Education Committee** virtual zoom meeting, 11:00 a.m.



The Gary Historical and Cultural Society (GHCS) proudly announces our **45th Anniversary** of service to the citizens of Gary and northwest Indiana. The GHCS was founded by Gary's Historian, Mrs. Dharathula (Dolly) Millender, in 1976 and she became involved in numerous cultural, historical and civic activities. Mrs. Millender founded the Gary Writer's Conference for community writers and poets and became a strong advocate for the rebirth of Gary's Symphony. In 1984 she and a group of volunteers became the "Care Takers of Gary's first building, the Gary Land Company Building" in downtown Gary. A yearly Summer Enrichment Program, which she started, has been ongoing at St. John's Lutheran Church in Gary. She was always invited to share Gary's history throughout the region and was the recipient of numerous awards in recognition for her work in preserving Gary's history. We can be sure that her rich legacy will live on forever and make us better by knowing our unique history. Her life-long motto is: "The joy of living is the joy of giving service."

Linda Jones
GHCS Secretary



You're invited

To the Virtual Grand Opening of our new Behavioral Health Unit at Aperion Care Tolleston Park.

Join us via Facebook live on Thursday, March 4th at 4:30 p.m.

Come explore HARMONY - Northwest Indiana's newest Behavior Unit

Make sure to pre-register to be eligible for a chance to win the fabulous raffle prizes.

Call Shameia Pope at (219) 895-5417 by February 25th.

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

STARTS TODAY

Virtual Job Fair



**THIS COULD BE YOU!
BE PART OF SOMEONE'S TEAM.**

The Virtual Career Fair is the easiest way to connect with employers safely. It's the perfect answer to the virtual handshake. This event will connect you with employers from your local market and beyond who are eager to build their team.

- Find a job from anywhere
- Pre-register for notifications about the event
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- Get hired

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March 7th**

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Anywhere
Career Fair



NORTHERN INDIANA

VENDOR INFO SESSION COMING TO NORTHERN INDIANA!

HARD ROCK INTERNATIONAL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GARY, LAKESHORE AND CROSSROADS REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INVITES YOU TO LEARN ABOUT THE PRODUCTS & SERVICES HARD ROCK CASINO NORTHERN INDIANA WILL NEED FROM THE COMMUNITY.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021
9AM, 11:30AM OR 2:15PM
ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN
411 E 5TH AVE
GARY, IN 46402**

If you're searching for an opportunity to get your products or services center stage and work with the best in the industry, then look no further. This is your chance to work with a world-famous brand and become a part of music history.

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- FOOD AND BEVERAGE
- MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES & SERVICES
- PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, PRINT, SIGNAGE, DÉCOR & ENTERTAINMENT
- AND MORE!

**RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND.
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ENTRY IS LIMITED TO 1 PERSON + 1 GUEST PER RSVP**





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