

# Chamber partners with STAR and IMG to offer chamber health insurance

By Sean Douglas

After a near year of planning and preparation, the Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with STAR Financial Bank and IMG, rolled out their new, exclusive health insurance plan in order to both attract and retain employees and businesses in the current job market.

“Grant County boasts a lot of opportunity for attracting a workforce that wants to live, work, and play in Grant County,” STAR Financial spokesman Allen Howard said in a statement. “This new offering to Chamber members will allow them more affordable healthcare options that also allows them to have better deductible and out of pocket levels. This is an exciting opportunity and we are thrilled to be able to bring this to Grant County.”

When the idea for this new health insurance plan first started to formulate, Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce President Kylie Jackson and her team were looking for ways to help businesses alleviate the stress of high health insurance costs.

While this plan is not perfect for everyone, Jackson believes that the plan will help small and medium-sized businesses cut expenses while providing quality health insurance for their employees.

“One thing we have constantly heard from our members is the issue in attracting and retaining talent, and how having a benefit package is a huge part of keeping folks,” Jackson said. “Health insurance is obviously a



big component of that. There are some employers that their health insurance is the largest chunk of their expenses.

“That’s really what this plan is for. It’s not going to be the best fit for everyone – we just want to put one more option out there for our members.”

The plan is level-funded, according to Jackson, and includes several perks. Businesses can lower costs by having their employees participate in pre-emptive health screenings, while employees can lower their premiums with regular bloodwork and yearly checkups. Other incentives include deductible and cash-back credits for free telemedicine, free lab services, free diabetic testing supplies and much more.

Additionally, all hospitals and health networks throughout Indiana are in-network.

Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce members who participate could see premium savings from 15-50 percent off their current plans, all that is needed to qualify is at least two employees.

Member employers interested in obtaining a quote may reach out to Jordan Martin with STAR Financial at [jordan.martin@starfinancial.com](mailto:jordan.martin@starfinancial.com) or Michelle Bunker with Insurance Management Group at [mbunker@insmgt.com](mailto:mbunker@insmgt.com).

## Habitat for Humanity exceeds Crowdfunding goal

The Community Foundation of Grant County is excited to announce that Habitat for Humanity of Grant County not only met but exceeded their \$20,000 Crowdfunding Campaign goal to support the construction of a new Habitat for Humanity home in Grant County.

Because Habitat for Humanity of Grant County met their fundraising goal, the Foundation will award the organization a dollar-for-dollar matching grant up to \$20,000, plus any donations they received over the \$20,000 goal. In 60 days, they raised \$27,681! Add that to the Foundation’s \$20,000 grant and a whopping \$47,681 raised through the campaign, will be awarded to Habitat for Humanity.

“The Community Foundation is proud to continue our mission of connecting people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact for the betterment of Grant County. The Foundation has been doing this kind of work since 1984, and we enjoy helping quality organizations, like Habitat for Humanity, in making a positive impact in our community,” said Meagan Mathias, Community Investment Manager.



To the donors and partners of the Crowdfunding Campaign, Brittany Howey, Executive Director says, “We are so incredibly thankful and humbled by your support and generosity! Funds donated allow Habitat to give a hand up to neighbors in our community and provide them with safe, affordable shelter. You are also helping our families to achieve homeownership and independence. And that is priceless! Thank you so much!”

Habitat is a non-profit housing ministry. They build simple, affordable homes for families in need, and sell them at no profit. Since established in 1993, Habitat has helped 54 Grant County families achieve the dream of homeownership. Habitat’s long-term goal is to build at least one Habitat home per year in Grant County.

“We want to express our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to family members,

friends, and colleagues who made it possible for Habitat to build a new home in Sweetser for a partner family by generously contributing to the crowdfunding grant with the Community Foundation. Through your generosity, Habitat was able to follow this scripture, “My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” Isaiah 32:18.” said Mia Erickson, Board President.

Habitat for Humanity of Grant County believes that all hard-working individuals and families should have a safe, affordable place to call home.

If you have any questions about the Crowdfunding Grant or future grant cycles offered at the Community Foundation of Grant County, please contact Meagan Mathias at 765-662-0065 or email [Meagan@Give-ToGrant.org](mailto:Meagan@Give-ToGrant.org).

## Indy Airstrip has another successful weekend

By Sean Douglas

With the summer winding down, the Marion Municipal Airport was revving up as the Shift S3ctor Indy Airstrip returned to Marion for the fifth consecutive year this past weekend.

Over the course of the two-day event, car enthusiasts and community members gathered at the airport to see some of the world’s fastest modified cars,

including Lamborghinis, Porches, Mustangs, and even tricked out classic automobiles.

“Saturday was probably our best day here in five years,” Shift S3ctor executive Jason Huang said. “We had a lot of spectators, and more cars signed up yesterday than we have ever had here. We are really happy with the turnout. I think people were just tired of sitting at home, so it was a

great opportunity to come and sit outside and watch racing.”

Drivers from all over the world take turns racing one another down one of the airport’s runways, reaching speeds over 200 miles per hour.

“Marion Airport in general is a great facility for us to do this event,” Huang said. “The runway is great, and that’s what brings the drivers here. But just like at our other events, we like to come out and establish a relationship with the city and the people. I’ve made some really good friends here over the past five years, and I think that’s what keeps people coming back.”

With multiple events in Grant County canceled this summer, the Indy Airstrip Attack was one of the few popular summer attractions that still proceeded as scheduled. Five of Shift S3ctor’s other events, Airstrip Attack style events in California, Colorado, and Texas, were all postponed due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to keep everyone safe during the event, multiple safety protocols were put in place. Hand sanitizer could be found throughout the event area, and both masks and social distancing were required for those communicating or interacting with other groups. Additionally, no grandstands were set up along the runway as there had been in previous

## Answers for Crossword and Suduko puzzles

8	4	9	2	1	7	3	5	6
3	6	1	5	9	4	2	7	8
7	5	2	6	8	3	4	9	1
9	7	4	1	3	6	5	8	2
2	3	6	7	5	8	1	4	9
1	8	5	9	4	2	6	3	7
4	9	3	8	6	1	7	2	5
6	2	8	3	7	5	9	1	4
5	1	7	4	2	9	8	6	3

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		A	M	A		A	G	E		N	A	N	
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E	D	I	T	O	R	S				R	E	A	R
C	O	T	E	R	I	E				E	S	P	O
T	W	E	E	D			N	A	B			O	L
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