



State agency awards \$500K to domestic violence shelters

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute awarded a total of \$500,000 to 28 domestic violence shelters in Indiana through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program. The funding will be used to provide emergency shelter to survivors of domestic violence and their dependents.

SSBG is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society in Marion which currently operates a 24-hour emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, received \$20,000 from the grant.

The award period for this grant is from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2021. The projects and funding amounts were approved by the ICJI Board of Trustees in June.

“Supporting victim-serving organizations is foundational to our agency’s mission,” said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. “These grants will better position Indiana’s domestic violence shelters to meet the needs of survivors across the state.”

Since the SSBG program was established in 1981, broad discretion has been given to states over the funding priorities. This year, the grants will be used to help offset the cost of certain operational expenses to include housing, food and other basic necessities.

In doing so, domestic violence shelters will have more flexibility and can potentially offer services in other areas, such as case management, legal advocacy and referral to other community resources, if needed.

“It’s important for families that are experiencing domestic violence to know that they have access to services and a safe environment,” said Kim Lambert, ICJI Victim Services Division Director. “We’re proud to come alongside dozens of organizations in Indiana that provide that frontline support.”

Visit www.cji.in.gov to learn more about the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Coming soon: Grant County’s first public Pride Month celebration

Pride in the Park, the first public Pride Month celebration in Grant County, is coming June 25.

The fun, family-friendly celebration will run from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Matter Park’s Bandshell and nearby Shelter 5. The party will feature free entertainment, food vendors, and more. All are welcome at this event celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community, who are our friends, loved ones, and neighbors.

Pride Month is observed every year in June, in recognition of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City when trans women of color and allied friends stood up against harassment and discriminatory laws. Pride Month recognizes the cultural, civic, social, and economic contributions to our society made by



LGBTQIA+ people that strengthen our collective social welfare. Pride Month also actively promotes the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

The organizing committee, Grant County Pride, believes that every person deserves a place to call home where they feel safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors. While the LGBTQIA+ community has made great strides, work remains in order to achieve full equal-

ity, inclusion, and acceptance. Pride Month celebrations can be a part of that work.

Pride in the Park will include:

- Entertainment from Tony, Marion’s DJ
- A live performance by Edens Lost
- Yoga with Katie Karnehm-Esh (ends at 6 p.m.)
- Pride photoshoots by Tlee Photography
- Food vendors including Suga’s Sweet Lemonade, Paco’s Tacos

Vendors selling various other items

Giveaways and games
Grant County Pride thanks the organizations and businesses who have provided sponsorships and other assistance, including Lark’s Song, Hope House, Marion Cycle Works, Starbucks, and Kohls. More supporters are in the works! If you would like to contribute to making the first Grant County Pride events a success, please email us at grantcountypride@gmail.com.

A second Pride Month event, the Pride After Dark Drag Show, will start at 9 p.m. at The Sender Building, 100 S. Washington St., in downtown Marion. More information about that event will be coming up soon! Follow Grant County Pride on Facebook to keep up with the latest updates.

United Way of Grant County releases first of ERI Wave 2

United Way of Grant County is pleased to announce that it has released initial awards from the second COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative grant. \$124,030 from the \$190,815 received from Indiana United Ways, the state professional association of which United Way of Grant County is a member. The grant will be used to support our community in meeting basic human needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant is one of 47 grants that Indiana United Ways is making to member organizations and community foundations through the



United Way Of Grant County initiative, which was made possible by funding Indiana United Ways received from Lilly Endowment Inc.

“We are excited to be able to bring this additional investment to our community. This funding will assist organizations that are directly supporting families in Grant County,” said Alicia Hazelwood, Executive Director of the United Way of Grant County. United Way awarded the following

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Schedule

12 noon – New Play Structure Celebration, Matter Park Gardens, Marion. Join us at Matter Park for this community-wide celebration. Thanks to a matching grant, multiple parks in the city of Marion now have new and updated play equipment. We’re hosting a picnic to celebrate, and will supply hot dogs and hamburgers while supplies last. Bring your blankets or

chairs and enjoy the beauty of Matter Park.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakes Presents “Richard III,” see June 17.

Sunday, June 20

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

1 p.m. – Summer Solstice Gathering, Upland Gardens, 8935 East 500 South, Upland. We’ll be

at the Upland Gardens to celebrate the summer solstice with yoga, drumming, and meditation. Event features Jenny Steele-Payne, Sabrina Wilds, and Nate Muri.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakes Presents “The Tempest,” see June 17.

Monday, June 21

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see

June 17.

6:30 p.m. – Fusion Arts Sounds of Summer, Matter Park, Marion. This summer series is an artist-led showcase of contemporary and experimental performance and visual arts. Diverse groups of artists, performances and audiences experience an evening where art, culture and community share good times to-

gether. Food trucks, music and art. Join us at the Gardens of Matter Park for an evening of delightful music.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakes Presents “Richard III,” see June 17.

Tuesday, June 22

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

7 p.m. – Gas City Con-

certs at the Park, Gas City Park. Tonight’s concert under the stars features Soulshot Band. No admission charge.

Wednesday, June 23

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

Thursday, June 24

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 17.

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