

# HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2017



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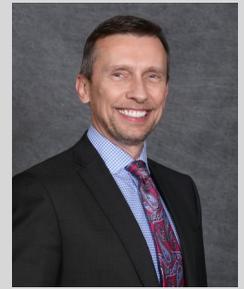
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The **Mission** of Cardinal Services is to **assist** and **advocate** for people with **disabilities** or **challenges** to live lives full of **dignity**, **growth** and **opportunity**.

## A note from our CEO . . .



Finally, a three-year-old girl entered her Head Start classroom and right away staff recognized that she has some challenges. It appears that she is not fully aware of her surroundings. She takes two steps and does not seem to know where she is. This little girl may have a previously undiagnosed developmental or learning disability. Her Head Start support team is beginning to help the family connect with needed services and make sure we have the resources they need.

One year from now, when we are wondering what happened to the summer of 2018, there will be fewer children with a label, fewer children with an IEP. There will be more smiles, more laughter.

Head Start matters.

Summer 2017 – where did it go? A sure sign that we are moving toward autumn is the return of children to school, and, for Cardinal Services, that means a new class of three and four-year-olds in Head Start. Cardinal operates Head Start/Early Head Start in Kosciusko County. At classes spread across the county, children get their first taste of being dropped off at school, learning to listen to a teacher, following a daily schedule, and making new friends. For most, within days they embrace the opportunity as they learn their ABCs, play new games and sing new songs. For a few, it can be a scary time. A tear or three is shed as a child watches mom or dad drive off leaving them with a roomful of strangers. Within days these kids adjust. It's so cool watching their little sponges (otherwise known as their brains) absorb new information and ideas and see the transformative effect that Head Start has by the end of the school year.

Each year, though, there are some children who face unique challenges that require deeper support. Some children come to us already having life experiences no one

would wish upon an adult, let alone a three year-old. In the first week of Head Start this year, the staff saw one boy who displays unusual physical aggression toward adults and other kids. His grandmother, doing the best she can, is responsible for raising him and his three siblings. What has happened in his three years that causes him to lash out so severely toward others? His Head Start support team is seeking professional counseling for him and his family. Just imagine – a three-year-old in need of a psychologist.

Another three-year-old boy arrived the first day wearing clothes he had obviously slept in and likely had worn for a few days. They were soiled. He had not been bathed. His first day of Head Start included a bath and clean clothes. He went from quiet and withdrawn to happy and playful, all because of some warm water and soap. His Head Start support team will contact the parents to learn about the household situation. It may be that the family cannot afford its water bill or soap. Maybe they are homeless. The family will be assisted to obtain the help it needs so that the parents can focus on their child's cleanliness and education.



INvestABLE Indiana helps people save while preserving their SSI and Medicaid.

A year after the Indiana Legislature approved its enactment, Indiana finally has a process for people with disabilities to create their own ABLE Account.

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Learn more at: <https://savewithable.com/in/home.html>

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- Financial Management
- Employment Training & Support
- Assistive Technology
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Giving those with disabilities the ability to save.

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Call Vickie Lootens:

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You are invited to lunch & a tour of Cardinal Services.

Upcoming dates:

Sept 12 & 20

Oct 10 & 18

Nov 15 & 21

Call Sarah Montel at 371-1372 to set a date.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know this is the **LAST** regular, hard copy edition of HIGHLIGHTS? Starting next month, our newsletter will arrive via email.

To be sure you continue to hear from us, please confirm your email address by emailing:

[michelle.boxell@cardinalservices.org](mailto:michelle.boxell@cardinalservices.org)

Please use the email account you want us to use, and include your name and mailing address in the body of the email, so we know who the email belongs to!

If you do NOT have email and wish to get a print out of our email mailed to you via postal service, please call Michelle at 574.371.1387.



## Warsaw WIC #1 in State of Indiana — Again



ExecVP, Matt Boren took lunch to WIC as thanks for a job well done. Here he is making a delivery to long-time WIC staff, Penny Martin.

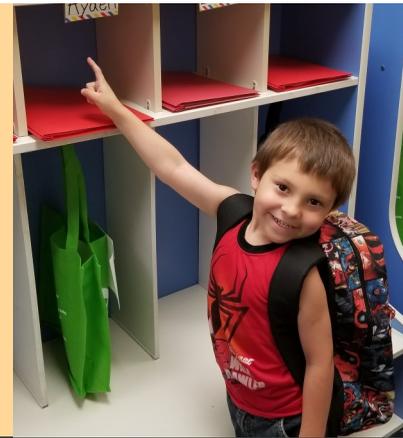
Warsaw WIC, a program of Cardinal Services, has achieved the top overall rank in the State of Indiana for two consecutive quarters.

The state tracks numerous outcome areas (i.e. # of mothers breastfeeding, # who do so for a given length of time, % of mothers in nutritional education compliance; etc.), and then ranks each program. Combining the overall ranks, Warsaw WIC has ranked #1 twice this year!

## New Year at Head Start

On August 17, we launched into the new 2017-18 school year at Head Start/Early Head Start.

With 175 children enrolled - including this bright, handsome, little fellow - it promises to be another busy and productive year!



## On our Cover . . . Reconnecting with Family

Tommy got a wonderful surprise this summer when two of his cousins surprised him with a visit. One he had not seen in 10 years, the other, who came all the way from Oregon, he'd not seen in 20 years!

Knowing no address and with only a few visual cues given by their uncle to guide them, Jean Stauffer, her sister, Jan Wagner, and Jan's husband Steve came to town and simply drove around Warsaw. Upon seeing a group home, they stopped and asked if anyone there knew Tommy. Well, of course! ... and 15 minutes later the family was reunited.

At first, Tommy simply looked at them, unsure who his visitors were. Then Jan and Jean began talking and he heard their voices. Immediately, a huge smile spread across Tommy's face, and he reached out to embrace them, calling each by name.

The cousins spent the afternoon looking through family pictures and sharing memories of their childhood. At one point, Tommy excitedly pointed to one picture, saying *That's my dad!* They gave him several of the photos, which Tommy happily hung on his bedroom wall.

The visit ended with more hugs and Tommy asking that a picture be taken of them all together. Now, this updated one hangs alongside the others. After his visitors left, Tommy watched them from the window and proudly told his staff, *That's my family.*



Tommy surrounded by his family, (standing l-r) Jan and Steve Wagner, and Jean Stauffer.

# HIGHLIGHTS

Non-Profit Organization

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Cardinal Services, Inc. is a non-profit social service agency that provides rehabilitation programs and services for people with disabilities or other needs. The people we serve are considered for services without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or the presence of non-service related medical condition or handicap. Cardinal Services is partially funded through SSBG/Title XX through the Social Services Fiscal Office of the State of Indiana.

## Bucket List Goal!

For as long as he can remember, Tim has wanted to be a fireman. Growing up with cousins who were, only heightened his desire to follow in their footsteps. Tim wasn't sure he'd ever make it beyond an occasional visit to a firehouse, but after his retirement from Big R and working out some health concerns, he was ready to try.

Today, under the leadership of Chief Mike Wilson of the Warsaw-Wayne Fire Territory, Tim has a volunteer job at Station 1. He works an hour per week, helping to keep the station clean and everything in its place.

On August 8, Tim had an orientation day, training on equipment and learning how things worked. *It was good work, he said. I've wanted to do this all my life, and it felt really good.*

Chief Wilson agreed. *We've known Tim for a long time. He has the passion for this work, and now he's joining in as one of the team, doing what he can to help. We are lucky to have him.*

