



Our Head Start classrooms welcome donations of new books for children ages 3-5.

The children enjoy book time every day, sometimes together in a small group, sometimes with a guest reader, and sometimes quietly on their own.

Studies reveal that children who are read to and who love reading also love learning, develop a large vocabulary, are creative, are good listeners, and understand cause and effect which helps them make good decisions.

Truly, there is no down-side to reading to children and giving them more books!

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 . . .



Although 2016 is not a budget year for the Indiana General Assembly, there are still important bills being considered which effect Cardinal and those we serve. This update has been compiled by the Arc of Indiana and INARF.

State House Update ~

SB 11 - ABLE Act. Creates the “achieving a better life experience” (ABLE) authority. It creates the ABLE Board and requires it to establish a qualified ABLE program through which a person may make contributions to an ABLE account, for the benefit of an eligible individual with a disability. The account helps the person with approved expenses in compliance with federal law. The bill passed the Senate and is moving to the House.

HB 1219 - High School Diplomas. Requires a high school operated by a school corporation to offer students the opportunity to earn any type of state diploma approved by the state board of education. It provides that a student with a disability shall not be required to complete local requirements that exceed state ones to receive a diploma unless approved by the case conference committee. This bill passed out of the House and is moving to the Senate.

SB 278 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities. States that the policy of Indiana is to promote competitive and integrated employment, including self-employment, as the first and preferred option when providing services to individuals with disabilities who are of working age. The policy will apply to programs and agencies that provide services and support to help obtain employment for individuals with disabilities. The bill states that the primary objective and preferred outcome of transition services is to assist the young person in obtaining competitive and integrated employment. Thus far this bill has not received a hearing in the Senate.

HB 1019 – Developmental Disability Identification Card. Requires the state department of health, upon request, to issue an identification card indicating that an individual has been medically diagnosed with a developmental disability. It allows the department to charge a fee for the identification card and assures the information collected by the department is confidential. The intent of the card is to help first responders identify people with developmental disabilities quickly, and to enable them to recognize that they may have to respond in a sensitive manner. This bill passed the House and has moved on to the Senate.

SB 364 - Medicaid Provider Audit Work Group. Requires the office of Medicaid Policy and Planning establish a work group to discuss the policies and procedures used in Medicaid provider audits. The office would be required to submit the work group’s findings and any statutory recommendations to legislative council before December 1, 2016. This bill is on its Third Reading in the Senate.

*Join us
for lunch and a tour!*

*Upcoming
Cardinal Connection Dates*

MARCH

Thursday the 10th
Tuesday the 22nd

~

APRIL

Tuesday the 12th
Thursday the 14th

~

MAY

Tuesday the 17th
Thursday the 19th

Noon-1pm

Cardinal Services

504 North Bay Drive, Warsaw

Reserve your spot by contacting

Sarah at 371-1372 or

sarah.montel@cardinalservices.org

Gift Brings More Than A Good Night's Sleep ~

You just never know what a new day will bring. Take for instance the day a gentleman called asking if we could use 26 sets of bunk beds. Off-hand, it wasn't something we thought we'd use, but a quick call to Head Start and Healthy Families revealed the truth. Need was indeed great and the beds were immediately claimed by young families in these programs.

In their gratitude many shared their stories of how they'd been sleeping 3, 4, even 5 to a bed. Some children had never slept in a bed of their own. Others had been sleeping on a couch, the floor, or a mattress on the floor. These are bright, happy, well-loved children, but their parents simply did not have the resources to buy beds.

Once used at a summer camp and still in fine condition, the beds now belong to children who are thrilled to own them. For a child who's never had one, to be able to say *my bed* is very big deal. Vivien, who's 4, couldn't stop talking about hers when she came into school the next day. *I got a bed!* She told our Head Start receptionist, her eyes wide. *I love my new bed!*

You just never know what the day will bring. Great thanks to our donor who brought more than beds to these families.



Whistlin' Sweet Georgia Brown ~

A generous supporter gave a lot of excitement and too many smiles to count when he donated 100 tickets to us for the Harlem Globetrotters' performance at the OCC in January. News of the opportunity spread quickly and within a couple days, all 100 were spoken for, and staff and clients made plans for a night of fun.



Deepest thanks to our donor for making it possible for members of the Cardinal family to have a night of laughter and fun together.

Those who stayed after the show were treated to personal time with the Globetrotters, who remained and were very generous with their time. It was a great night, all around!



March Is Disability Awareness Month ~

The theme of this year's celebration reminds us that we each have a role to play.

There's no better time to learn more about Cardinal, get involved, make a donation, volunteer, or attend one of our lunch & tour *Connections* (see dates on opposite page)!



A New Beginning ~

It was an exciting day at Cardinal when we received word from the State that Amy was approved for the waiver allowing her to move from a group home to an apartment of her own. It's long been her goal and now, here she is pictured, signing her lease—the first

lease in her life—for a place of her own.

Amy moved on Feb 10 and the next day pronounced her new home to be *awesome!* Congrats to Amy and her staff on you hard work making this day possible!

Please give it some thought ~

In honor of Jane's upcoming retirement, we have established:



Our Goal:

- 40 people/couples join the Society setting aside a gift in their estate plans for Cardinal in honor of Jane before she retires on July 1, 2016.
- That's one Legacy for each of Jane's 40 years with Cardinal.
- For more information: Contact Vickie Lootens at (574)371-1344 or vickie.lootens@cardinalservices.org

Tax Law Info ~



The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 allows people age 70.5 and older to transfer up to \$100,000 *tax free* directly from an IRA account to a qualifying charity. These transfers can be used to satisfy the taxpayer's "required minimum distribution" for the year, and are *tax free*.

For more information, contact the trustee of your IRA.

Like Mother's Milk ~

We're proud to report that in November our WIC office location became an approved Milk Bank Depot. The Milk Bank accepts donated mothers' milk from approved donors. The milk is then pasteurized, frozen and shipped to neonatal ICUs around the state and country.

The human milk is fed to at-risk, premature, and sick newborns. When a mother is unable to feed her own infant, the donated milk is used to help build and strengthen the newborn's immune system. For a fragile newborn, donated human milk can make the difference between life and death.

To learn more go to www.themilkbank.org.



HIGHLIGHTS

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Warsaw, IN 46580

Permit No. 14

Cardinal Services, Inc.

504 North Bay Drive
Warsaw, Indiana 46580

574-267-3823

TDD 574-568-2393

cardinalservices.org



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.

Help us cut our paper use.
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email: contact@cardinalservices.org

WHY Cardinal?

~ from Mike and Dara Long

My wife, Dara, and I have been involved with Cardinal Services for over 12 years. We both understand first-hand the need in our community and the excellent services Cardinal supplies.

Our experiences with Cardinal have been many. Dara is a past employee, a job developer who worked daily in the community securing employment for the many and varied clients Cardinal serves. Today, our son Isaac lives in the Jackson group home in Plymouth. We also support Cardinal through our private contributions and by helping with the annual Cardinal Call Luncheon.



Dara, Isaac and Mike

We firmly believe Cardinal is an important and much needed member of our community, providing answers, hope and quality of life to the many people they serve. They are people who would have few if any options available to them if it weren't for

Cardinal. We have witnessed the quality of life and the confidence Cardinal instills in each of their clients to live and prosper in a modern, fast paced society.

The services of Cardinal include early intervention to get children off to a good start, guidance for families searching for answers, life skills training, education for specific needs, residential options, and CCI Manufacturing where clients can work in an actual production facility and earn a paycheck.

If you have never witnessed the joy and confidence that Cardinal brings to their clients I invite you to go on one of their tours. It *will* leave you with a lasting impression! We are truly blessed and fortunate to have Cardinal in our community with all they provide for those in need. *Thank you, Cardinal Services!*