

West Central Neighborhood Association Meeting

November 18, 2024



Our Vision

The vision of the West Central Neighborhood Association is to create a friendly environment that is rich in history, culture, diversity, and community that is valued by its residents, business owners, and visitors.



Agenda

- Inasmuch Ministries
 - Mary Ann Mings
- 2025 WCNA Officer Elections
 - Call for additional nominations
 - Election
- WCNA Resource Spending Strategy
- November Gift Direction
 - Connie Mettler

Inasmuch Ministries

Mary Ann Mings





IAM and Circles of Allen County

My Previous Life

- Chief Operating Officer for a mid sized plastics manufacturer.
- Hired over 1000 individuals over a 30-year period
- Work release
- Statesville prison
- Shelters of all kinds
- Lower Wacker Drive
- 5 years no lost time
- 4 buildings
- 24/7
- Category leader for every item we manufactured
- Company sold for 10 times what it was valued when we started

Then

- It was sold to Investment Bankers
- And I was out
- So I decided to go have an adventure
- In hindsight.....

What we heard over and over

- Only job I've ever had was selling drugs and stealing cars
- I can cut crack; I can count cash
- I can't do this
- I am gum on the bottom of the shoe
- Why are you doing this?

IAM

- On the corner of Washington and Broadway
- Most referred agency in Allen County by Indiana 211 by double digits.
- Last 18 months, over 14,000 referrals; 2nd is Wayne Township at 7000
- We see on average 300 people a week; a mix of homeless and housed; most are just poor.
- 85% are there for food; of that 60% are dual income households.
- Food Pantry (We keep food you can cook and food specifically for the homeless)
- Clothing Bank
- Bus passes
- Birth Certificate Retrieval
- Financial assistance for housing and utilities
- Haircuts and shaves for homeless

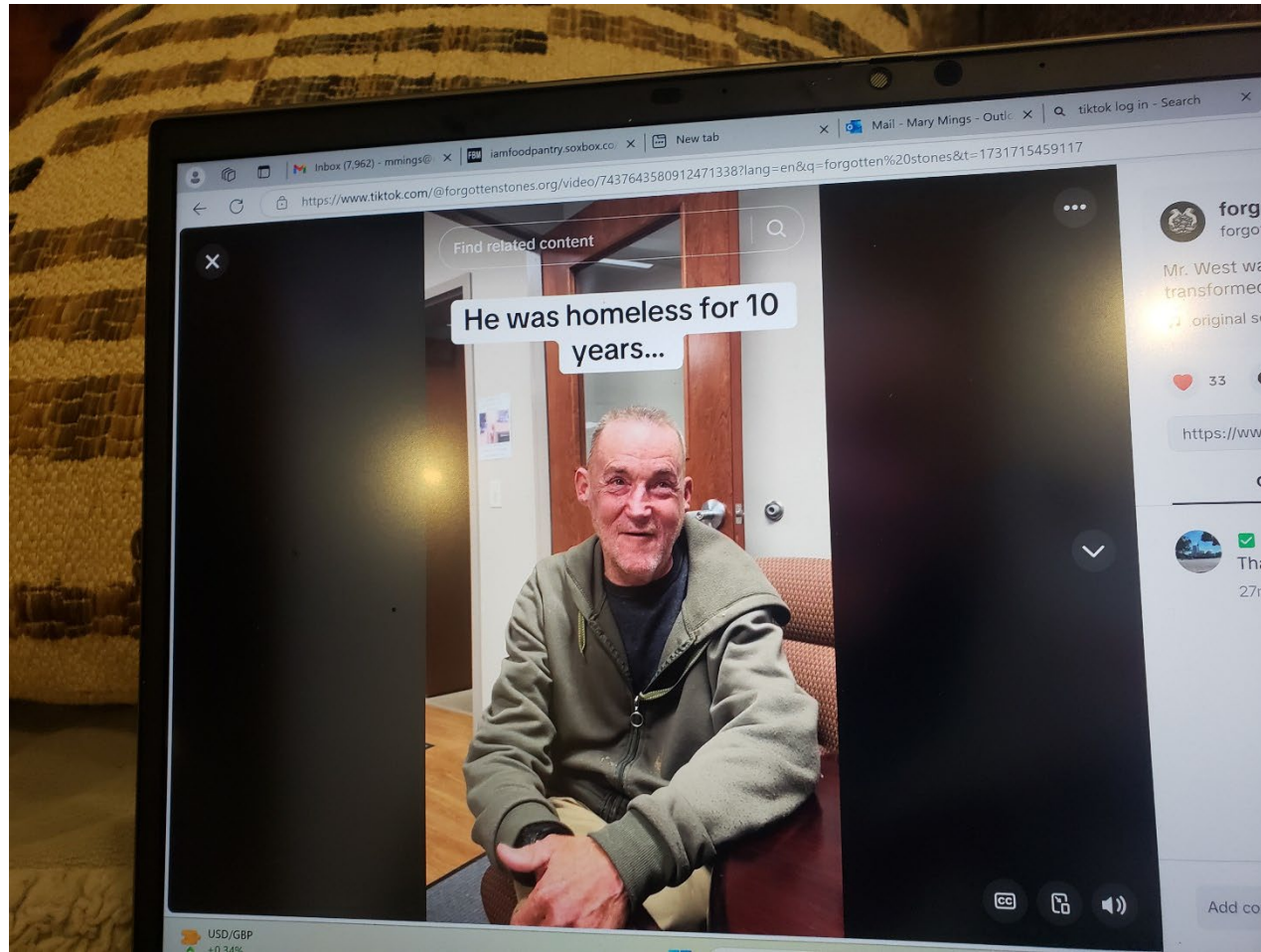
Partner Agencies

- Once a month, PRC does HIV and HEP C testing
- Super Shot does vaccines twice a month
- Housing is with us once a week
- Phones and tablets
- Health Visions Midwest
- Emergency Rental Assistance Funds

IAM Data

- So far 2024, over 750 unique homeless individuals
- 53% are employed and have been
- 33% either currently addicted or were addicted at one time
- 11% untreated mental health issues
- Many come just to have someone to listen
- They hang out in the lobby with us; we know their names and their stories.

Mr. West



Circles of Allen County

- Work with individuals in generational poverty to move forward
- Training and education but partner with a mentor
- A 70 year old woman is debt free for the first time in her adult life after 12 months in the program.
- A single mom of 3 just recently had her car blow up at the same time the rent was due; \$1600. I asked her if she needed help. She patted my arm and said-now because of my emergency fund this was just a bump in the road; not a crisis.
- 60% have over 1000 in an emergency fund; not knowing what an emergency fund was when they came to us

Future Plans

- Day Shelter
- Employment
- Community
- Housing

What we learned that applies here

- You cannot transform every life.
- Your failures cannot cause you to throw in the towel
- Focus on the ones whose lives are forever changed
- It works, and a lot of people in Northern Illinois will testify to that.

2025 Elections

Ben Wahli, Past President



Election of Officers

- Minimum of five officers
 - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairperson
- Officers must be an eligible voting member (see next slide)
- Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers at the October meeting
- Open call for nominations beyond the slate at the November 18 meeting
 - Nominees must be aware and willing to serve to qualify
- Elections held immediately following the conclusion of open nominations
 - Led by a past officer who is NOT seeking office

Voting Member Eligibility

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Resident, property owner, or business owner within the West Central neighborhood
 - Must be a member of WCNA, with all dues paid
 - Individual has one single vote; households have maximum of two (2) votes
 - Businesses must designate in writing an individual for votes; one single vote per business
 - Must have attended at least three (3) of the last twelve (12) membership meetings (or any event where attendance is recorded)
- Members may vote in absentia by assigning an eligible proxy (notarized proxy form signed by the eligible proxy)

2024 Slate of Officers

- Joel Sauer, President
- Kelly Benton, Vice President
- Bethany Pruitt, Secretary
- George Taylor, Treasurer
- Anita Kuker, Membership

WCNA Resource Spending Policy

Joel Sauer

Purpose

- Protect the financial solvency of the WCNA
- Ensure that our resources are invested in neighborhood priorities
- Encourage appropriate spending/investment each year
- Guide the WCNA board and membership for future projects and decisions

Policy Details

- Maximum spending per year will be the total of excess revenues minus expenses (margin) from the previous two years
 - Based on the last several years this would be approximately \$60,000 - \$70,000
 - Multi-year commitments will go against this maximum and will be included on the company balance sheet
 - Any expenditure in excess of \$2,500 must receive membership approval (per the bylaws)
- Aggregate liquid assets will not go below 1.5 times the annual operating budget
 - Including H&G Tour expenses

Policy Details (cont'd)

- Full financial statements, including the Income Statement, will be shared with membership via the website on a quarterly basis
- Focus areas for the next 5 years will be:
 - Transformative neighborhood projects (public art, gateway signage, riverfront landing, Thieme Overlook, Moody Park, etc.)
 - Infrastructure repair & maintenance (historic street lights, historic street signs, brick streets & alleys, parks, sidewalk & curbs)
 - Member programs
 - Including \$250 per membership meeting with the benefactor determined by the member attendees; money must not directly benefit a for-profit, political or religious entity)

We Want Your Input!!

- Take the member survey
- Available on our website at
 - www.westcentralneighborhood.org
 - Then click on the “survey” link right on the main page
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQI5a4oD2oC5pEHxuvMilvKgD30tqxNm0s7kuYotDKMLF6Rg/viewform>

November Gift Direction

Connie Mettler



November Gift Direction

- Food pantry on West Washington
- Inasmuch Ministries
- Washington Elementary Clothes Closet