

delivering the Promise

A Quarterly Publication of
Indianola Promise Community
SPRING 2016

When children get the right start,
Indianola prospers.

Early Childhood

Kindergarten

Grade 12

College and Career

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS' IMMEASURABLE IMPACT

By Patrick Ervin

Everyone has measurements they use to determine whether or not a program, project or organization is successful. For those of us involved in helping to organize neighborhood associations across Indianola, we know success when homeowners begin to take charge of their neighborhood and realize how much good they can make happen when they work together. Two of our associations have operated in some capacity ever since the Indianola Promise Community established an office downtown, or about five years ago. Three others have established themselves over the last couple of years and are going strong. Members have completed community beautification projects, have been instrumental in building the South Gate Kaboom Park at the Bethune Center, and have upgraded the look of the pool house in the Roosevelt Community. "We have accomplished quite a bit in our different communities over a short period of time," said Roosevelt Neighborhood Association President Marilyn James. "Our next step will be

doing collaborative projects among the associations to have an even bigger impact on Indianola." As these associations continued to complete project after project, several of them sought training necessary to become legally-recognized organizations. Over the past twelve months, with the assistance of an independent consultant and support from the IPC office, three of the five neighborhood associations have become non-profit organizations with the other two well on their way. Another organization took the consultation a step farther and formed a female farmers' co-op, strengthening their ability to sustain themselves. "With the right amount of assistance and direction, each organization will begin to realize that they can accomplish things they hadn't even imagined before," said Mary Dotts-Martin, president of the New Directions Neighborhood Association. "We hope to continue serving the citizens of Indianola while sustaining our organizations as well." Going forward, the training will continue in the form of grant development, public relations and community organizing. This means more afterschool programs, more workforce development, more mentorship and more empowerment for the citizens of Indianola. We believe these neighborhood associations will continue to mature into sustainable groups for our community because of factors that are hard to measure: commitment, passion and determination.



"The newly renovated swimming pool has made a difference in the lives of our youth for years to come. We now can offer a safe and healthy environment for them to enjoy outside activities during the summer months. We offer

swimming lessons, to make swimming a common pastime and a safe activity, evening swimming for adults, and a social area for youth to meet in a positive atmosphere.

This improvement would not have been possible without the partnership between DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE'S Indianola Promise Community and the City of Indianola."

- MAYOR STEVE ROSENTHAL

The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) is a community-based initiative to provide children with the opportunity to succeed in school, graduate, and attend college. Our priority is making sure children in Indianola have the opportunities they need to excel. The IPC is a project of Delta Health Alliance. For more information, to volunteer, and to get involved, call us or come by and visit us. IPC Office, 135 Front Street, Indianola, MS 38751, 662-686-3933

GREAT



Getting Ready to Excel,
Achieve and Triumph

A PROJECT OF THE INDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY

Indianola Promise Community GREAT (Getting Ready to Excel, Achieve, and Triumph) program provides an opportunity for youth ages 16-24 to gain skills that will assist with employment and that will further their education. These participants recently completed a Carpentry certification program.



From left to right: Damion Johnson, Nathan Richardson (instructor), Shedrick Knight, Arkem Lloyd, and Dondre Johnson. Not pictured Draquiss Johnson



cassandra's rules!

Cassandra Rule, IPC Social Services Coordinator, assists Indianola residents with available services.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016-High School Seniors. Here are a few tips for students planning to attend college and live on campus!!

- Register for classes as early as possible. Early bird catches the worm and all that.
- Always attend the *real* class, and use the Internet one for review.
- If you are not a morning person, don't schedule classes for 7am. You will not go.
- If you can live harmoniously with someone in a 20x20 ft. space, you can do anything.
- Flip-flops: Always wear them in the dorm shower.
- Get involved on campus. All work and no *productive* socializing is boring.
- Too much socializing = bad grades.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed, are having problems sleeping, or have gone through a breakup, visit your college's counseling center.

If you are feeling suicidal at any point, call your college's crisis center number or call 911 immediately.

- There are a lot of free activities on campus. Take advantage of them.
- Many colleges have free tutoring centers on campus. Take advantage of them.
- Attend the whole class, because professors give really important info at the end of class.
- Remember that although you are 18, your college may have the right to contact your parents if you are caught drinking underage.
- Be Safe. Always use caution. If possible don't walk alone in dimly lit places on campus.

(www.psychologytoday.com 2010/08 Stephanie Sarkis, Ph.D., N.C.C., L.M.H.C.,).

Register Now for Summertime Fun!

Indianola Promise Community Summer Camp Schedule • June & July 2016

10 camps have room for over 600 Indianola young people!

Sign up for Indianola Promise Community's sixth year for camps serving youths from pre-school to college. We provide a safe haven for summer months, curtail learning loss between academic school years and learning through creative methods.

For information on the camps and to register, please call the camp directly.

The Art of Living Smart Summer Camp Sponsored by the BB King Museum. The camp will meet for eight weeks, Monday through Friday/8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Youth, ages 8 – 17, will learn to choose fresh, healthy ingredients and to prepare nutritious snacks and meals. They learn to live healthy lives and exercise at the program and at home. Students are exposed to reading, music and other fun activities to continue the learning process and show-case their talent to the entire community.

CONTACT: Verna Ransom / 662-887-9539 ext. 224
ransom@bbkingmuseum.org

Delta Hope Care Enrichment Summer Camp Sponsored by the Delta Hope Care Foundation/Christian Fellowship Church. Targeting children from Pre-K through 12th grade, the camp will provide instruction to enhance vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

CONTACT: Brenda Lynn / 662-299-9616
brendly6@aol.com



Summer Youth Entrepreneurship Program Sponsored by Delta State University College of Business. Targeting male students, grades 7 – 12. The camp will provide instruction in business vocabulary and practical work experience to enhance entrepreneurial skills and develop work ethics.
CONTACT: Dr. Cooper Johnson / 662-846-4192
bcjohnsn@deltastate.edu
Peirce Mcintosh / 662-577-1200

Children In The Zone-Learning Through The Arts/summer reading Sponsored by the City of Indianola. Children in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades will focus on reading comprehension and writing. This camp will also include arts and crafts, drama, dance, word challenge, baseball and softball for participants.
CONTACT: Carolyn O'Neal / 662-207-2680
recreation@indianolams.gov

Freedom Summer 2015 Sponsored by the Sunflower County Freedom Project. Targeting 7th - 9th graders, this camp will provide core academic instruction plus art enrichment and fitness training. Students will take a weeklong visit to Ole Miss and tour historic Civil Rights sites.
CONTACT: Vaish Shastry / 662-569-2441
vaish.shastry@gmail.com

Summer School Development Initiative Sponsored by the Rasberry United Methodist Men's Club. Three age ranges are targeted for this camp: 8-11, 12-14 and 15-18, with an emphasis on language, literature and reading. Activities will include creative speech, dramatic arts, music, poetry and plays.
CONTACT: Eddie Liddell / 662-392-6778
randlecarver@bellsouth.net

Project RISE (Reading Improvements for Success in Education) Sponsored by On Track Community Development Corporation. Students from all grades will enhance and reinforce their literacy, vocabulary and writing skills through creative and fun programs such as poetry, drama/theater production, spelling bees and arts enrichment. Campers in grades 1st through 8th will meet Monday through Thursday 8:00 – 4:00 (Breakfast 8-9 and lunch 12-1). Campers grades 9 – 12 will serve as academic peer tutors to fellow-campers. Mon – Thurs campers will participate in college readiness.
CONTACT: Carol Jackson / 662-452-5149
or 662-452- 5071, cjackson@ontrackcdc.com

Small World Save the Children in partnership with the Indianola Promise Community will provide services to 90 Indianola pre-school children (age 3 years old) through Early Childhood interventions which will advance them in Head Start. This camp will be held at Cassie Pennington and begins June 8.
CONTACT: Robbie Hunt / (662) 452-5098
rhunt@savechildren.org

Promise School Sponsored by Indianola Promise Community and Sunflower County Consolidated School District. This camp is a kindergarten readiness program for 120 students entering Lockard, camp dates are from June 6th-July 15th. Transportation and meals are provided.
CONTACT: Valerie Simpson / 662-207-1174
vsimpson@sunflower.k12.ms.us

Fire Academy for Kids Sponsored by the Indianola Fire Department. Children, ages 7 – 12, will develop life safety skills in fire safety and first aid in a classroom setting and work closely with Indianola Fire Dept. personnel. The camp will meet July 11th-15th from 8:00 am – Noon with lunch and snack provided.
CONTACT: Chief Eugene Snipes / 662-887-4955
firechief@indianolams.gov



Indianola Promise Community
135 Front Street
Indianola, MS 38751

FAMILY OF THE MONTH APRIL 2016 – TEAM POSSIBLE!

Teresa Jones and Jimmy Addison can be best described as *"Team Possible"*; between the two of them great things are made possible for children. Together they share two children, 5 year old Jاليا Addison who is a student at Lockard Elementary, and 27 year-old Jarvis Jones. Teresa, works a full time job, and still finds time to attend PTO meetings each month, volunteer in the community, and visit and support her daughter's school. Team Possible often donates resources and money to help provide what is necessary to help children. Each year they help purchase school uniforms for children in need. They also provide toys for less fortunate children for Christmas. The duo supports community programs such as the C.A.R.E.S mentoring program and Roosevelt Community Neighborhood Association. You can often find the pair in attendance at school functions or in the classroom at Lockard Elementary.

The pair enjoys: reading to their daughter books provided by the Imagination Library program; having family time at the park; and, participating in IPC programs like Promise School. *Team Possible* is grateful for all the programs they participate in through the Indianola Promise Community. Ms. Jones expressed that they have not always been in a position to give back to others. She is thankful that they now have the opportunity and are fortunate enough to share with other families who might need it.



"I am very pleased with IPC and the partnership they have with the City of Indianola and its citizens. The citizens have benefited from IPC's programs greatly."

– DANA MYRICK, CITY ALDERMAN

LITTLE FACT ABOUT INDIANOLA

There were three movie theaters in Indianola: The Honey located on Front Street, The Regent located on Court Street, and an unnamed movie theater located on Hotel Ave which is currently named Court Street before it turns into Church Street. There was also a drive in theater called The Mojack located behind what is now Slater's on Hwy 49. It was open in the late 1940's to the early 1960's.



- Historical information and photos supplied by the Sunflower County Library System