



Collaborating for the health of residents in
Aurora, Batavia, Big Rock, Blackberry, Kaneville,
Sugar Grove, and Virgil Townships

August 2023

INC Links

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Featured Agency Lighthouse Foundation



Lighthouse Foundation's mission is to provide funding for the treatment of critical substance use and mental health to indigent clients that reside in the community. The organization's core belief is that financial constraints should not limit an individual's ability to seek and receive high quality care for their substance use and mental health needs. The Foundation's Board of Directors feel a

deep, personal responsibility to ensuring that the most vulnerable in the community receive high quality care and are committed to raising funds and increasing awareness regarding the critical need for substance use and mental health services for these individuals. By educating the community at large, reducing stigma associated with mental health, and providing a path to recovery without financial barriers, Lighthouse Foundation strives to improve the lives of anyone seeking services through them. For more information on Lighthouse Foundation, visit them at <http://lighthouserecoveryinc.com/services-offered>.

What's Happening With

INC Staff will attend the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities (ACMHA) membership meetings virtually on August 10 & 11, providing an opportunity to collaborate with fellow colleagues in the industry.

In FY24, 17 agencies and 36 programs are funded with the goal of moving our mission forward. There are 3 new agencies and 5 new programs that address present and future needs of residents within the 7 townships that INC serves. The 3 new agencies fill a gap in providing needed services to young children and the IDD community. Four of the 5 new programs are in response to the funding opportunities that our board provided utilizing the building sale proceeds. These opportunities focus on youth peer leaders and calming rooms in local schools, addressing the workforce shortage through paid internships, and the DSP shortage through a certification partnership with our local community college.

INC is preparing to work with an Outcome Evaluator as a service to our funded agencies who want to improve their Outcome Reporting process. The Evaluator would review the reporting process and frequency of reporting with the agencies and with INC staff. The goal is to create a report that provides measurable data so that our board of directors, and other potential funders, can understand and appreciate the impact of the agency's programs.

Thank you to our Board Members

INC Board of Directors would like to thank departing board members Alicia Schatteman and Russ Wolf for their many years of dedication to INC's mission. Jim Otepka has joined INC Board of Directors as of July. Jim worked closely with INC for nearly 30 years as Executive Director of TriCity Family Services and will be a welcome addition.

INC would like to thank departing 708 Township Board Members Robert Borchert (Aurora), Brenda Rompf (Big Rock), Lisa Sestak (Sugar Grove), and Ted Janecek (Virgil) for their service and dedication to INC's mission. INC welcomed new 708 board member Raquel Case-Enck to Big Rock Township at their June meeting. There are open 708 board positions in Aurora, Blackberry, and Virgil townships. Board members must reside within the township in which they serve and not be employed or on the board of one of our funded agencies. Interested parties can contact staff at 630-892-5456 or info@incmha.org.

Remembering Lisa Campise



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Lisa Campise on June 15th. Lisa served on the Sugar Grove 708 board from 2013 until June of 2021. She worked in the Sugar Grove community as a Social Worker and was part of the Kaneland community schools, including Harter Middle School. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Lisa's family.



Did you know that 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is an effective, life-saving safety net for those experiencing suicidal ideations or a mental health crisis? The Lifeline is made up of a network of local and state-funded crisis centers across the United States. The counselors at local crisis centers, such as INC-funded agency Suicide Prevention Services, answer calls and chats from people in distress that Lifeline receives every day. However, most recent survey results indicate that only 18% of adults in the U.S. have heard of the Lifeline and its purpose since it was launched in July 2022. (www.pewtrusts.org) While this data is concerning, there are a few ways to increase awareness of this life-

saving tool. Donating to your local crisis center, advocating for 988 based on your personal experience with them, or sharing about their services on social media are effective methods to increasing awareness and support of 988. To learn more about the 988 Suicide and Prevention Lifeline, visit <https://988lifeline.org/how-we-can-all-prevent-suicide/>. For more information about Suicide Prevention Services, click [here](#).
