

Tireless fighter for the homeless to be honored

By SARAH ROGERS

Ask Tony Rogers to describe himself and he'll tell you one thing: low-profile. This certainly doesn't mean he stays in the background; he's active in his community and has an inspiring desire to improve it.

About 15,000 people in Indianapolis face homelessness each year - 30 percent of them are children. They are constantly searching for basic services such as health care and affordable housing. Rogers has been working for years to make these services stronger.

Furthermore, Rogers serves on the board of the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP). The nonprofit agency advocates for people experiencing and at-risk for homelessness in Indianapolis.

Also as the controller in the Indiana Attorney General's Office and a board member for United Way of Central Indiana and the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF), Rogers has a great sense of how things can come together and evolve. He has seen CHIP progress from conducting research on homelessness to "rolling up their sleeves" and implementing change.

CHIP assists with several of the initiatives outlined in the Blueprint to End Homelessness - a 10-year plan developed by organizations in Indianapolis. "The CHIP staff is absolutely wonderful. They plan things down to the intimate detail so that things do work," beamed Rogers. Currently, preventative measures, especially for youths, are being planned.

CHIP also helps people access housing, education, employment and health care services, which is critical in preparing new adults for success, said Rogers. Many of them are not aware of the extensive services provided by the city, let alone how to locate and benefit from them. As a retired Army colonel, Rogers has valuable experience in shaping young adults.

"When you get a young troop you need to support them and guide them," Rogers said. "That's what these kids need."

CHIP is currently developing a strategy to help young adults in the foster care system transition from existence within the system to existence as self-reliable adults. Rogers believes it is a "sin" to stop helping young people after they turn 18.

Another CHIP service is the Indy Resource Connect, which brings families and businesses together at the township level to conveniently provide local services and information. From this initiative, over 1,000 people experiencing homelessness or in housing

crisis were served by more than 650 volunteers. Twelve people were assisted with many ways to be involved, and 91 veterans received veterans' services. Dental, vision and other health care services were provided.

"Participants also had access to financial counseling, and legal services such as help with acquiring ID cards and birth certificates. In addition, some received career counseling, food stamps and even haircuts.

Rogers believes that Indianapolis is moving in the right direction in assisting its homeless.

One point that Rogers stressed was the need for aid from the community. He estimated that 63 percent of services provided by CHIP and its partner organizations are used directly by African-Americans. He realizes that the economy is

growing slowly and people are struggling, but there are many ways to be involved. CHIP appreciates donations, which are put to good use. People who want to help in other ways may volunteer their time as well.

On Sept. 16, Rogers will be honored for his tireless efforts with the Emile Godfrey Board Service Award. The award is named after a past chairman of CHIP who, according to Rogers, is a real hero. He said Godfrey went beyond being active in the community.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, making donations or learning more about the Blueprint to End Homelessness, you can visit CHIP at www.chippindy.org for more information.

Enjoy Labor Day Festivities - Downtown!

15th Annual Rib America Festival
Military Park
September 3 - 6

IDADA First Friday Art Tour
Mass Ave, Cultural District
September 3

Indianapolis Indians vs. Louisville Bats
Victory Field
September 2 - 4

Pure Prime: The Music of John Prine
Phoenix Theatre
Now - September 12

\$1 Labor Day at the Eiteljorg
Eiteljorg Museum
September 6

Labor Day Parade Downtown Indianapolis
September 6

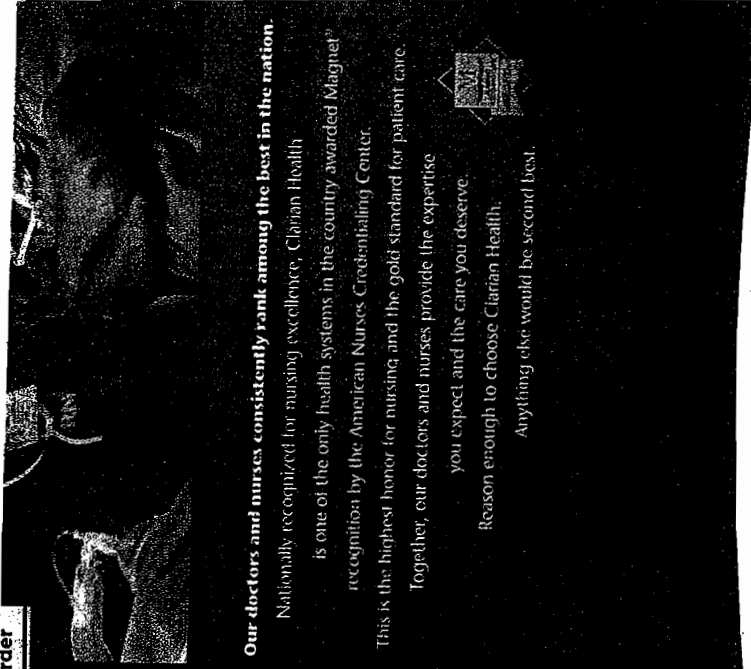
Stay Labor-free at a Downtown Hotel

- Canterbury Hotel
- Conrad Indianapolis
- Hilton Indianapolis
- Homewood Suites
- Wyatt Regency Indianapolis
- Omni Severin Hotel
- Westin Indianapolis

Log on to www.indydl.com and discover where to eat, what to do and where to park.

Indianapolis Downtown

Amazingly.....
.....Always New
www.indydl.com



Our doctors and nurses consistently rank among the best in the nation.

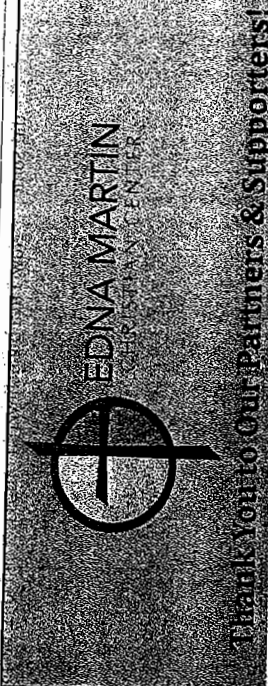
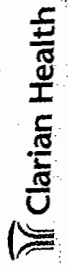
Nationally recognized for nursing excellence, Clarian Health is one of the only health systems in the country awarded Magnet® recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

This is the highest honor for nursing and the gold standard for patient care.

Together, our doctors and nurses provide the expertise you expect and the care you deserve.

Reason enough to choose Clarian Health.

Anything else would be second best.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Alliance of Baptists - Bridges of Hope Mission Offering.
All churches and associations within the American Baptist Churches USA, Greater Indianapolis and IN/KY American Baptist Women's Associations (nationwide)
American Baptist Men's Associations (nationwide)
AmeriCorps
Arlene Bowe-Master Gardener Baker and Company
Bess Matthews Trust
Bowman's Transportation Service
Brighthouse Networks
Brightwood Community Center
Business Leadership In the Next Generation (B.L.N.G.)
Capital City Transit
Central Indiana Community Foundation
CERF Funders
Chief's Academy of Indianapolis
Cherry Tony Knight - Chess club leader
Church Federation of Indianapolis, City of Indianapolis (Community Development Block Grant) Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Community Resurrection
Partnership members
Canfield Memorial Trust
Department of Education (IN and US)
Donovan Certified Public Accountants
Douglas Park Golf Course
East 91st Street Christian Church
Eastern Star Church
Elected and Appointed Officials
Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church
Engaging Solutions
Felige-Hyway Center
Federal Emergency Management Assistance
George Middleton Band
Gleaners
GoodWorks Indiana
Herff Jones
Hornung Roofing
Indian Creek Baptist Camp
Indiana Department of Education
Indianapolis Algebra Project
Indianapolis Ice
Indianapolis Public Schools, 48, 51, 69, Bridges to Success
Indianapolis Marion County Public Library - Brightwood Branch
Indianapolis Zoo
IU/PUI
J'reth Sports</p> | <p>Jobs Partnership
ITC Contractors
KFC Plainfield
Kingsley Terrace Child Development Center
Lilly Endowment Inc.
Lumina Foundation
Major Tool & Machine Inc.
Moore Foundation
Martin University
Martindale Brightwood in Action members
Midwest Karate
National Ministries (American Home Baptist Societies)
New Hope Baptist Church - Rev. Malone, Bible Study Leader
Nina Mason Pulliam
Charitable Trust
Oasis of Hope Baptist Church and Oasis of Hope Community Development Corporation
Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives
Payback Foundation
Powers and Sons Construction
ProjectSEED
Public Allies
Purdue University
Read Up Tutors
Rager Management Systems
Rays Trash Service
Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation
Ruth Lilly Health Education Center
Ruth Lilly Endowment
Second Helpings
Shepherd Community Center
Stanley Byram Trust
Steward and Associates
Summer Youth Program Fund
Teachers Treasures
Julia Fisher
Joan Friesen
Lisa Harris
Larry Mason
Charlotte Welling
Immediate Past (Retired) Directors
William Grosvenor
Wayne Paulsen
Mike Pepe
Donna Simmons</p> | <p>Officers of the Edna Martin Christian Center
Joseph E. Matthews, III, Preside
Natalie Weir, Vice President
Dexter Cooley, Treasurer
LeAlice Briggs, Secretary
Board of Directors
Beverly Carmey
Phyllis Carney
James Carter
Dexter Cooley
John (Jay) Douthett
Bruce Farr
Jill Koehlinger
Roberta Proctor
Linda Roberts
Robert Wright
Ex-Officio Members
Joan Friesen
Lisa Harris
Larry Mason
Charlotte Welling
Immediate Past (Retired) Directors
William Grosvenor
Wayne Paulsen
Mike Pepe
Donna Simmons</p> |
|--|---|---|

All the individuals, families and groups supporting our mission with donations of time, money and resources

Thank you!!!
Tyshea A. Hardy-Sellers,
Executive Director



United Way agency