

The IUPUI—WESCO Partnership

In 1997 the leadership of Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI) and WESCO created a long-term partnership to bring together the resources and talents of the IUPUI campus, WESCO, and WESCO's many businesses, schools, and municipalities to build a stronger Near Westside community.

This document was created by the IUPUI Office of Neighborhood Partnerships in partnership with WESCO.



WESCO Resource Guide

A useful guide of local youth activities and information

WESCO

The Westside Cooperative Organization (WESCO) is the umbrella community association comprised of three Indianapolis Near Westside neighborhoods: Haughville, Hawthorne, and Stringtown.

WESCO was initially formed to unify neighborhood resources and efforts to combat community problems. Over a period of a few years, WESCO was able to attract grant funds to address community issues, including a US Department of Justice Weed & Seed Initiative, one of the first in the country. Over time, the WESCO community has become a model for change around the country.

WESCO motto:

“Working together works.”

WESCO Partners

- Bank One
- Christamore House
- City of Indianapolis
- Hawthorne Community Center
- Hispanic Informational Neighborhood taskforce on Sensitivity
- Indianapolis Police Department
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
- George Washington Community School
- Kroger
- Lifeline Community Center
- Marion County Health Department
- Minority Health Coalition of Marion County
- Municipal Gardens Family Center
- National City Bank
- Neighborhood Alliance on Child Safety
- Prosecutor’s Office
- Westside community Development Corporation
- Westside Community Ministries, Inc.
- Westside Health Center

Did you know...?

- Exercising 20-30 minutes a day, most days of the week, can help prevent heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis (bone thinning) and mental health problems such as depression. Physical activity helps you feel better overall.
- Even moderate physical activity is beneficial. Examples include brisk walking, raking leaves, or house cleaning.
- The more active you are the healthier you become. Try an activity you like. Activities such as dancing, swimming, or biking can be fun.
- Even if the weather is bad, you can still exercise. Try an exercise show on TV or an exercise tape/dvd, walk in the mall, or work around the house.
- Many illnesses and conditions - such as heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes-can be prevented or controlled by eating right.
- Whole grains, like those found in whole wheat bread or oatmeal, are better for you than refined grains like those found in white bread.
- Foods high in saturated fat, like red meat, ice cream, or whole milk, can increase your cholesterol level and are high in calories which leads to weight gain.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Table of Contents

General Activities.....	4
Parks/Gardens.....	5
Community Events.....	6
Social/Recreational Activities.....	9
Youth Development.....	12
Job Skills/Career Planning.....	15
Volunteer Opportunities.....	16
Health Education.....	17
Did you know? (health information).....	18
WESCO Partners.....	19
IUPUI-WESCO Partnership.....	20

General Activities

Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis

Program: Membership Information

920-4700

300. E. Fall Creek Pkwy. N. Dr.

Indianapolis, IN 46205-4729

Days/Hours: Summer: Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm

The Boys and Girls Club of Indianapolis offer five branches open to youth 6-18. Youth members may enter or leave the club at any time during operation hours; programs are provided throughout the day. The Clubs' main programs include character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness and recreation. Free breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided for club members. Visitor privileges are allowed only once. If a youth desires to return, a membership card must be obtained; Fee: \$6-\$8 per year. WEBSITE: <http://www.bgcindy.org>

Haughville Branch Library

269-1870

2121 W. Michigan St.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Days/Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am-8pm; Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat.

10am-5pm

Website: <http://www.imcpl.org>

Health Education

Prenatal Class; The ABC's (Parenting Tips) of Raising Babies; Introduction to Breastfeeding (During Prenatal) - Classes are offered in November and December. Please call for further information.

Phone: 554.4654.

Location: Westside Community Health Clinic; times vary

Fee: FREE

Diabetes - Introductory Seminar. Classes are offered in November and December. Please call for further information.

Phone: 554-607.

Location: Westside Community Health Clinic; 9am-11am

Fee: FREE

Automotive Safety Program - By appointment only! Classes are offered in November and December. Please call for further information.

Phone: 554.4654.

Location: Westside Community Health Clinic

Fee: Free

IPD Community Day and Health Fair

Date/Time: June 9, 11 am-1 pm

Location: IPD West District Building

Offers residents an opportunity to learn about health services and receive free health screenings. Also includes games, face painting and music. Krogers provides free hotdogs and drinks.

Westside Health Center Health Fair

Date: October

Location: Westside Health Center

Provides health related educational exhibits and screenings on blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, and vision.

Volunteer Opportunities

Christamore House

Program: Youth Volunteer Opportunity

635-7211

502 N. Tremont Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 3pm-7pm

Ages Served: 15 +

Offers volunteer opportunities for youth that include tutoring, peer mentoring, recreational supervision, senior citizen activities, pre-school care, janitorial work and more.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis

Program: Youth Volunteer Opportunity

921-2121

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Ages Served: 16 +

Website: <http://www.indyhabitat.org>

Offers the opportunity to help with home construction projects. Also needs volunteers in the office to do clerical work.

Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation

Program: Volunteer Opportunities

327-7036

Multiple Locations

Days/Hours: Vary

Website: <http://www.indygov.org>

Offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities including working on programming, participating in beautification projects, helping at special events, serving as park monitors, participating in enhancement days, serving as naturalist guides and more. Allows children younger than 14 to volunteer as a group if they have adult supervision. Call for more information.

Parks/Gardens

Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation

The Indy Parks locations offer everything from nature, arts, day camps and sports classes to playground and lakes, often at little or not charge. Call 327.PARK for an Indy Parks Fun Guide.

WEBSITE: <http://www.indygov.org>

Thatcher Park

327-0128

4649 W. Vermont St.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Amenities include: family center, indoor swimming pool, walking trail, softball diamond, baseball diamonds, little league baseball diamonds, wood floor gymnasium with basketball & volleyball courts, playgrounds, athletic fields, and picnic shelters

Municipal Gardens Park

327-7190

1831 Lafayette Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Amenities include: gymnasium, multi-purpose room, kitchen, spray pool, shelter, playground, and outdoor basketball court

Community Events

January

A Celebration of Unity – In celebration of the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Children’s Museum offers free admission. Special entertainment and guests add to the fun for the entire family. Celebrate the life, dream and legacy of the late Dr. King.

Phone: 334-3322

Location: The Children’s Museum

Annual WESCO/Weed & Seed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Breakfast - Come celebrate the peace messages of Dr. King in this annual community wide breakfast event that features a youth rally, city leaders, IPD, Project Safe Neighborhoods and more. Past door prizes included bicycles, CD players, televisions, mopeds, etc.

Phone: 327.7902

Location: George Washington Community School,
2215 W. Washington St.

Fee: Free

March

St. Patrick’s Parade – March 17 – Annual parade celebrating our Irish heritage.

Phone: 236-6515.

Location: Begins at North St. on Pennsylvania heading south, goes around Meridian at New York St. and then heads north ending at Vermont and Meridian St.

August

Indiana State Fair – Wednesday-Sunday, August; hours vary – State Fair includes animals, agriculture, education, concerts, special attractions, games, Midway rides, food and much more.

Phone: 927-7635

Fee: \$6 admission; Children 5 & under-Free (Rides, food, games & merchandise extra.)

Website: <http://indianastatefair.com>

Job Skills/Career Planning

Indianapolis Urban League

Program: Youth Works Training Program 693-7603

777 Indiana Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Vary

Ages Served: Youth 15-17

Offers a program that teaches youth 15-17 job readiness skills.

These include dressing for success, interviewing skills, the proper way to complete a job application and resume writing. After completing the training the youth graduate and are interviewed by Kroger Human Resource Personnel and placed in jobs as cashiers, baggers and stockers.

George Washington Community School 693-5540

The Center for Working Families at George Washington Community School

2215 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Days/Hours: Vary

This helps families to get the most out of their money and find needed resources. Services include budget counseling, helpful classes and workshops, answers to questions, and resources for assistance. Small change makes big gains. Information. Services are free and open to the public. The Center is sponsored by Bank One, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Christamore House, George Washington Community School, Hawthorne Community Center, IUPUI Office of Neighborhood Partnerships, and Mary Riggs Neighborhood Center.

Youth Development

Ruth Lilly Health Education Center

Program: Health Education

924-0904

2055 N. Senate Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Ages Served: All

Website: <http://www.healtheducationcenter.org>

Provides health education programs in the areas of general health, disease prevention and control, drug education, nutrition and fitness, human growth and development. Over 33 standardized programs plus outreach are available. Serves preschool through adult ages. A health education resource library is also available for teachers, youth group leaders and other professional.

Hawthorne Community Center

637-4312

Program: Preschool/Pre-K/Preschool Plus

2440 W. Ohio St.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Introduces and reinforces the basic skills needed for children to successfully participate in the formal school setting.

Program: Kindergarten Childcare Program for George Washington Community School

Provides breakfast, academic enrichment, and recreation for children attending George Washington Community School afternoon kindergarten; transportation provided to and from Hawthorne to GWCS.

Program: School Age Childcare

Provides childcare for children during the school year and all school recesses for working families

Program: After School Program

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 4-5:30 pm

Provides fun and educational activities for neighborhood children.

Program: George Washington After School Program

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 2:30-5:00 pm

Provides GWCS middle school students with enriching activities, including recreation, drug and violence education, and field trips.

Community Events

September

Fiesta – Entertainment including ethnic dancing and music, Hispanic & American food and arts and crafts representing various Spanish speaking countries.

Phone: 767-5312

Fee: Free admission (Food and vendor costs vary)

Website: <http://www.fiestaindianapolis.org>

October

Explore IUPUI: A Day of Learning, Exploration and Discovery Annual event in October – The campus will be open to alumni and their families, parents, prospective students, the business community and residents of the surrounding Indianapolis area.

Fee: Free

Location: IUPUI campus

Website: <http://www.explore.iupui.edu>

Annual Haunted House at the Children's Museum The Museum Guild sponsors this seasonal favorite for both young and old.

Phone: 334-3322

Fee: \$6.00

Location: Children's Museum

Website: <http://www.childrensmuseum.org/catalog/home.asp>

Halloween ZooBoo – October 29-30, 3pm-7pm – Features trick-or-treating all over the Indianapolis Zoo grounds, a costume contest, “not so scary” animal shows, special holiday dolphin shows and Halloween games and festivities.

Safe Night Halloween Party – October 31, 5pm-7pm – Features a Halloween Party with games, educational exhibits, candy, a haunted house and music.

Phone: 927.7524.

Fee: Free.

Location: Indiana State Fair Grounds, South Pavilion

Ages Served: 3-14 years (must be accompanied by adult):

Website: <http://www.indyzoo.com/>

Community Events

November

Circle of Lights – Day after Thanksgiving – Features holiday performances, sing-a-longs, Santa Claus, fireworks and the “flipping of the switch” to light the “World’s Largest Christmas Tree.”

Phone: 237-2222

Fee: free

Location: On the Circle downtown

December

St. Nicholas Fest and Khriskingle Market – Event in early December – The St. Nicholas Fest is on Sunday, 1pm-5pm. Offers children’s activities. Learn traditional German folk dances and listen to storey-telling. Then there is singing and the lighting of the Christmas tree with candles. After that, St. Nicholas comes and calls registered children and gives them a gift. Snacks provided.

Phone: 630-4569

Location: Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St.

Fee: Adults: \$5; Youth (4-13): \$3 and Youth (0-3): Free

Christmas Eve – December 24, 10am-2pm – The Children’s Museum is open for a FREE day at the museum.

Phone: 334-3322

Location: The Children’s Museum

Fee: Free

Website: <http://www.childrensmuseum.org/catalog/home.asp>

Kroger Christmas at the Zoo – End of November to the end of December, Daily 5pm-9pm – Features the annual holiday light celebration with 700,000 lights, 150+ light sculptures, visits with Santa, carolers, cocoa and cookies in the Café and nightly holiday dolphin shows. Closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Phone: 630-2001

Location: Indianapolis Zoo

Fee: Adults: \$6; Youth: \$4

Website: <http://www.indyzoo.com>

Youth Development

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Program: Indianapolis Branch Youth Council **925-8143**

617 Indiana Ave., Ste. 217

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Vary

Ages Served: High School

Fee: \$15 per year membership

Provides programs to improve the quality of life for African-American youth in the greater Indianapolis area through advocacy and education. Offers ACT-SO, a youth-oriented program for area members in grades 9-12 to compete for college scholarships in the areas of science, technology and the arts. Participants receive coaching, mentoring and internship opportunities. Also Grooming for Greatness program to map out youth high school careers.

National Institute for Fitness and Sport
Program: Field Trip Programs **274-3432 ext. 222**

250 University Blvd.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Vary

Ages Served: preschool-12

Website: <http://www.nifs.org>

Offers customized health and fitness field trips for youth groups that provide information and activities promoting lifelong healthy habits. Programs are typically 1-2 hours. For more information call or visit the website.

Youth Development

Christamore House

635-7211 ext. 230

Program: CHAP – Christamore House Achievement Program

502 N. Tremont Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 5-9pm

Ages Served: 13-18

Website: <http://www.christamorehouse.com>

Offers a program including life planning and sexuality, life skills, job readiness, career planning and more. Tours colleges each spring to assist participants in selecting a college.

Program: Amazing Teen Program

Ages Served: 13-19

Offers a program for youth which provides recreational activities, mentoring, and tutoring to help youth learn valuable productive skills needed to become model citizens in the city.

Program: Teen Opportunity Program

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; 5-9pm

Ages Served: 14-21

Offers a year-round program for youth focusing on education, finding employment, tutoring, mentoring, computer training and college exploration.

Indianapolis Urban League

Program: National Achievers Society

693-7306

777 Indiana Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Days/Hours: Vary

Ages Served: Grades 11-12

Offers an educational program for high school juniors and seniors with a GPA (grade point average) of 3.0 or higher. Activities include community service, college tours and competitions for college scholarships. Also provides informational services regarding financial assistance for higher education and Urban League scholarships.

Social/Recreation Activities

Hawthorne Community Center

Program: Hawthorne Teen Club

637-4312

2440 W. Ohio St.

Indianapolis, IN 46222

Days/Hours: Vary

Ages Served: Grades 7-9

Offers structured program activities for youth such as recreational activities, life skills and survival skills training, 4-H activities, tutoring, homework assistance, community service projects, speakers and field trips.

Program: Athletics

Focuses on sportsmanship and teamwork in a competitive framework. Each sport has a full season with practices, regular season and post season games.

Basketball: Basketball season operates from late fall to spring. The basketball league is divided by age group and serves K-12

Soccer: Soccer season operates during the summer months. The soccer league is divided by age group and serves K-8

Program: Hawthorne Summer Camp

Days/Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 am-5:45 pm

Ages Served: K-8

Provides fun and enriching programs throughout summer vacation. Youth have the opportunity to participate in academic enrichment activities, athletics, arts and crafts, dance, drug and crime prevention and nature education. Additionally youth will travel on field trips four times per week. Field trips include swimming, skating, museums, bowling and movies.

Social/Recreation Activities

Indianapolis Urban League

Program: YAP-Youth Achievement Program 693-7603

New Life Center
4004 Meadows Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
Days/Hours: Vary

Offers co-educational youth development programming for at-risk youth grades K-12. Provides prevention strategies for violence, teen pregnancy, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Activities include asset building, resisting peer-pressure, values, effective communications, conflict resolution, anger management and computer skills. Provides team mentoring and recreational opportunities. Parents are required to participate in at least one program activity annually. Various sites are located in Marion County. The Indianapolis Urban League partners with local schools, community organizations and churches.

George Washington Community Pool: 327-5918

2215 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Days/Hours:

Open swim, Saturday noon-4pm;
Water aerobics, Monday & Wednesday, 6-7pm, Tuesday & Thursday, 5:30-6:30pm;
Learn to swim, preschool Saturday, 9:30-10am;
Youth Saturday, 10:15-11am, Monday & Wednesday 5:15-6pm;
Adults Saturday, 11:15am-noon.

Managed by Indy Parks and Recreation, the pool is open to the public evenings and weekends.

Social/Recreation Activities

George Washington Community School Programs **Indy After School Program** 538-6202

2215 West Washington School
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Provides activities for sixth, seventh and eighth graders such as tutoring and homework assistance, recreation, chess, swimming, science club and more. Hawthorne Community Center manages the program at Washington.

Christamore House 635-7211

Program: Early Childhood Enrichment

502 N. Tremont
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Ages Served: 3-5

Prepares children with skills to exceed through kindergarten.

Program: After School Program

Ages Served: 6-13

Focuses on tutoring with recreation activities, field trips, and crafts.

Program: Summer Day Camp

Ages Served: 3-13

Offers an 8-week program during the summer break with an educational focus that rewards participants with field trips and recreational activities.

Lifeline Community Center **After School Program** 917-1699

743 N. Holmes
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Days/Hours: Mon-Fri, 3-6 pm

Ages Served: 5-18

Offers an after school program for area youth, focusing on education and conflict resolution. Activities include: homework time, art classes, computer lab, and dance lessons. Also includes field trips as incentives for improved grades and behavior.