



**I WAS THERE.
I WILL BE
ACTIVE
I CAN LEARN.**



IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

70% Black/African American; 26% White/Caucasian; 1% Latino/Hispanic

Median household income was \$24,217 in 2015, compared to \$42,168 in Marion County.

69.4%

of families with children under age 18 in our area live in poverty compared to 26.2% in all of Marion County.

45% of neighbors age 25 and older have only a high school diploma or less, 25% attended some college but don't have a degree.

88% of new mothers were unmarried in 2015 - a rising trend - up from 61% in 2011. Further, 10% of all births in Crown Hill were to mothers age 15-19.

I WAS THERE OUR INSPIRATION

Jason had a reputation. He was struggling in school and at home. He and his siblings had become known in the south Butler Tarkington neighborhood and were under close watch by law enforcement. With nothing to do, Jason was stuck in a cycle that he couldn't escape. On a nice-weather day in February 2017, he and a friend were in an incident at Tarkington Park; they were arrested and faced a one-year ban. Summer had not even started yet, but the MLK Center staff and partners knew they needed to get him and his young siblings engaged-fast!

A few months later, Jason became part of the Tarkington Teen Work Crew, when he heard about our summer employment opportunity. Through this program, teens spend 20 hours each week on the job and in the workshop. He developed positive friendships, gained mentors, and began making different choices. Jason's life story was beginning to be rewritten- **he chose a new direction.**



"The MLK Center is a safe place for me to socialize. Here, I've learned to be comfortable in my own skin."

OUR LEGACY

The MLK Center is the heartbeat of mid-north neighborhoods serving youth and families in Butler-Tarkington, Crown Hill, Mapleton-Fall Creek and Meridian Kessler. We were established in 1971 as the Butler Tarkington Youth Center at 42nd and Boulevard. We assumed our current name in 1981 and purchased our current building from the AAA Hoosier Motor Club at the corner of West 40th and Illinois Street in 1977. Just six short years ago we were on the verge of closure. **Now we are recognized as a premiere organization providing deep, transformative services. We are needed, wanted, and vital to the community.**

I CAN LEARN

OUR MISSION & CALLING

Since our founding nearly 50 years ago, we have focused on seeing our neighborhood. Today we fulfill our mission to create a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve through quality, multi-generational programs that build community, invest in youth, empower families, advocate for our neighbors and provide a peaceful space to connect. Our holistic programs reach all ages and concentrate on youth and teens, anchored by our commitment to James Whitcomb Riley School 43, one block from our center. While many of our neighbors face poverty, transiency, and other challenges, others experience abundance- creating divide in opportunities our neighbors can access.

We play a vital role in bridging gaps and creating common threads between our diverse neighbors. At the MLK Center families can access new opportunities, follow their path, and find stability.

Our vision is to help more people-like Jason- be the best version of themselves. Our place-our building- is essential to us doing so, and it must be welcoming, optimally configured for our programs and bringing people together. We want to continue educating children, empowering families and building community.

That's why we're launching a campaign to raise \$2.2 million- and we're inviting friends, neighbors, and Indianapolis to join us in supporting this dream. Our impact, vision, and plans are detailed in this document.

I WILL BE ACTIVE

EDUCATING CHILDREN

Infants and preschool age children are connected to high quality early childhood education providers around community to get ready for Kindergarten. Students Pre-K through 6th grade at IPS James Whitcomb Riley School #43 receive year-round literacy instruction and youth development. Teens and young adults have access to state of the art technology in our Best Buy Teen Tech Center powered by Klipsch. In a peer learning environment and engineering, 3D-printing, photography, videography, graphic design, coding and t-shirt making. Our Tarkington Teen Work Crew provides employment opportunities over a seven-week summer program that includes financial literacy and job readiness workshops along with the social-emotional support groups.

All programs are at capacity because keeping the staff to student ratio low produces real results.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

A successful youth program engages parents and family members, too. By working with our Wellness Coaches, parents set goals in a family success plan around education, stable employment, financial stability and healthy lifestyles including mental health. In partnership with IndyGo, our MidTown-Get-Around connects parents to innovative transportation options for work, school, doctors and groceries. **By meeting parents where they are and overcoming barriers, families can stay in the neighborhood and keep their children in the school!**

BUILDING COMMUNITY

We are the community center bridging the gap between million dollar homes and abandoned houses. Our building is the physical hub for the community to gather, dialogue, create, problem solve, socialize and interact with each other to promote unity and cohesion. Our staff, board, stakeholders and teenagers promote Dr. King's Principles of Nonviolence. By 2021, everyone connected to the MLK Center will have access to this training and nurture this way of life. Please join us as we continue to grow community.



In just
ONE YEAR

the number of
after school children
reading at grade level
grew from

33% to 55%



LOVING OUR CENTER

Since 2015, we have spent more than \$100,000 on building maintenance and repairs. These are funds that could help us expand our youth programming. This building project will establish a maintenance reserve so more funds can be funneled into youth and family programming. By making these investments, we will gain efficiencies in our services and be able to offer more welcoming, client-centered experiences throughout every program we offer.

This is just the beginning to a larger expansion project over the next few years. Phase One includes:

- 1. HVAC replacement**—replacing aging and inefficient systems like the 58-year-old boiler and control system with new, energy-efficient models.
- 2. Electrical repairs**—including new LED lighting, fire alarms and distribution system to accommodate or current and anticipated electrical needs.
- 3. Window Replacement**—all of the building's windows are original to 1962; they're drafty and water leakage is damaging interior walls and adjacent brickwork.
- 4. Tarkington Park Welcome Center**—as part of the window replacement, we will be adding a new entrance onto 40th Street facing Tarkington park, and the rear parking lot. This will reconfigure our 1st floor to maximizing community gatherings and program space, while making dedicated space for our Dr. King library.

INTRODUCING THE VISION

The MLK Center is excited to announce we've engaged **Davis and Associates** as our Construction Manager. Doing business since 1992, Davis & Associates, Inc. is a minority owned and operated Construction Management and General Contracting firm, with offices in Indianapolis and Atlanta. Two years ago Davis and Associates helped us bring to life our amazing Best Buy Teen Tech Center powered by Klipsch. We are excited to work together again to show out building some love.



LEADERSHIP GIFTS

The Capital Fund Committee at United Way of Central Indiana has earmarked \$1,000,000 for this project. We must secure an additional \$1.2 million in cash and pledges to actually receive that grant and make this project a reality. The total project cost is \$2,218,000.

Please join us in making this project a success by considering a leadership gift that is meaningful to you and your family.

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Complete HVAC Replacement	\$611,000
Window Replacement/Curtain Wall	\$300,000
Electrical Replacement	\$445,000
1st Floor Interior Improvements	\$350,000
Soft Costs* 20%	\$341,000
Design/Construction Contingency 10%	\$171,000
TOTAL:	\$2,218,000

*(fee for architectural, engineering, project management, permits, etc)

