

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

OF INDIANA AND WELLS COUNTY

223 W. Washington Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
Phone 260-824-1514

ANNUAL REPORT TO WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2009

The Mental Health Association of Indiana – Wells County Chapter (MHA), wishes to thank the Wells County Government for their past support for this organization. The MHA has always been a citizen's organization and is the only organization today concerned with every aspect of mental health, from the individual who has a mental illness to the family member, to the policy-makers throughout the community. The County's support, through operating funds, office space and utilities in the Courthouse Annex, and a website at <http://wellscounty.org/>, help bring a voice to our neighbors who cannot speak for themselves.

The MHA continues striving to fulfill the mission as guided by the founding leaders. By providing education and information to our community about mental health and addictive disorders, the MHA strives to spread understanding and awareness. Members of the MHA are providing a grass roots voice to issues that confront us. By providing advocacy at various levels – city and county government, the community mental health center, local nursing homes, schools, and to the general public - the MHA is able to bring about change in the way citizens view mental health.

With the support of Wells County Commissioners, the MHA has continued to advance issues of mental health in Wells County in 2008. The support provided by the County has permitted the organization to focus its resources on projects that benefit the community rather than fund raising. Projects such as the Christmas Gift Lift, Christmas parties and greetings to local nursing homes, and collection of suitcases for the State Hospital residents, are a continuation of MHA programs. However, very few individuals suffering from mental illness reside in facilities; rather, they are our neighbors in the community. Therefore, the MHA has retooled its mission to allocate resources for addressing the needs of the mentally ill in the community setting, as made manifest by the recent projects of the MHA. Educational programs to the public for addressing various mental health issues have been identified as a need and the MHA has responded with:



Mental Health
Association
in Indiana, Inc.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**OF INDIANA
AND
WELLS COUNTY**

223 W. Washington Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
Phone 260-824-1514

- In partnership with the Wells County Public Library the MHA distributes tracts on children's mental health in displays within the library.
- Participates in regular community Alzheimer's programs.
- Lead a domestic violence community program last October with Fort Wayne news personality Terra Brantley in partnership with the Wells County Domestic Violence Task Force and other entities.
- Planning a parent's night out in Fall 2009 to discuss substance abuse and computer safety.
- Sent Christmas cards and gifts to local nursing home residents and Oubache Village.
- Participated in the Christmas Gift Lift for Logansport State Hospital and local Park Center patients.
- Ongoing collection of suitcases for patients at the Logansport State Hospital.
- Participated in the Wells County Health Fair

The MHA of Wells County provides these services through the efforts of voluntary services from its members: there is no paid staff. Financial support for programs is provided through its various grants for specific events, and dues from its membership.

Greg Werich – President

Paul Bonham – Secretary

Pete Cole – Treasurer

Nancy Bonham, Melba Cole, Bill Hansen, Kay Manges, Sharon McMillan, Gwen Payne, Jean Reef, and Ashley Stinson – Board Members



Mental Health
Association
in Indiana, Inc.