

PROMISE IN ACTION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANSVILLE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD



TEEN / TWEEN SERIES

Helps equip **middle and high school students** with tools to navigate critical challenges during adolescence.

Designed for youth in **7th and 9th grades**, the series covers healthy relationships, suicide prevention, substance misuse, managing distress, and internet safety—providing practical information students can use daily.

By addressing these topics early, **Youth First's Teen/Tween Series builds awareness, resilience, and healthy decision-making**—strengthening students, families, and school communities. **Learn more at** <https://youthfirstinc.org/programs/>



FAMILY FIRST

Youth First's Family First Program is a **high-quality after-school offering** that brings families together to build stronger connections and practical skills for everyday life.

Using the Strengthening Families curriculum, the program focuses on **enhancing parenting skills, youth life skills, and overall family bonding** in a supportive, welcoming environment.

Open to families with children ages 7–17, regardless of the school they attend; each session includes a shared meal—creating space for connection and learning. **Learn more at** <https://youthfirstinc.org/programs/>

A NEW WAY TO STRENGTHEN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

What if you and a couple of your neighbors could learn how to make real, lasting change right where you live? That's the idea behind the Love Your Neighborhood Cohort, a brand-new six-week program starting this fall.

Community One created this experience to help teams of three people (from churches, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, or just neighbors) build on the strengths already in their community. Participants learn to discover what's already working and grow from there.

Each Thursday from September 17 through October 22, teams will meet from **6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Encounter (317 Main Street, Evansville).**

Through group discussions, real-world examples, and hands-on tools, participants will learn how to listen well, build relationships, organize around a shared vision, and take action together.

This is the first time the cohort has been offered, but it's built on nearly a decade of Community One's experience walking alongside neighborhoods. At least two of the three team members need to attend each week.

Ready to sign up?
Scan the QR code to
register your team
before spots fill up.



SCAN ME!

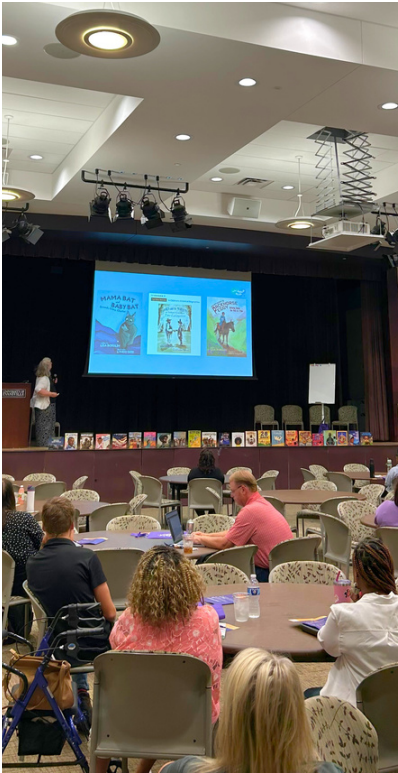


MCDC YOUTH GET TOOLS TO CHANGE THEIR WORLD

This June, youth from Memorial Community Development Corporation's summer program spent a day learning how to make a real difference in their community. The Transformative Action Workshop, made possible by a Toyota Driving Possibilities award, brought expert Dr. Scott Sherman to the University of Evansville to teach young people the skills behind successful changemaking.

Dr. Sherman is the founder of the Transformative Action Institute and has taught social innovation at universities like Yale, Princeton, and Johns Hopkins. His workshop helped students understand how people succeed when they set out to improve their communities, whether in health, education, or the environment.

The partnership between Toyota's Driving Possibilities and the Center for Innovation & Change made it possible to bring this national-level training directly to neighborhood youth. When young people are given real tools to create change, they step up.



LEARNING TO HELP KIDS READ BETTER

More than 15 community organizations came together this summer for the **Literacy in the Community Conference**. The goal was simple: give the adults who work with kids better tools to help them learn to read.

The **University of Evansville School of Education** led the event. Reading specialists taught three small-group sessions on proven ways to support children's reading outside of school. The small groups let people ask questions, share ideas, and get advice tailored to their own work.

Attendees said they left with strategies they could use right away. Many work at local nonprofits, after-school programs, and family-serving organizations across the Evansville Promise Neighborhood.

This conference was the first step in a bigger partnership between the University of Evansville, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, and EPN. Next up: a series of **Family Literacy Nights** at EPN elementary schools. These events will help families learn research-based ways to strengthen reading skills at home. Community partners are invited to join alongside school staff to build a stronger support network for students and families.

KIDS EXPLORE SCIENCE AND DREAM BIG AT CAMP IVY

This summer, students from the Evansville Promise Neighborhood got to spend time on Ivy Tech's campus doing hands-on science and health activities. The program is called **Camp Ivy**, and it gave kids a chance to tour labs, build projects, and try things they'd never done before.

Three community partners brought youth to campus: **Dream Center, Memorial Community Development Corporation**, and **the YMCA**. Presenters from **UE's Toyota Driving Possibilities, Ascension St. Vincent**, and **Ivy Tech faculty** helped lead activities.

One highlight? Students toured engineering labs and built their own 3D-printed catapults. They launched different-sized spheres to see which ones flew the farthest, and some kids even got to take catapults home. Another special moment came when **Ivy Tech student Eddie Burkell** surprised the group by buying everyone ice cream. Eddie, who was recently chosen as a statewide student representative, encouraged the kids to stay in school, join clubs, and believe in themselves.

Camp Ivy started with just one community partner. This year it grew to three. Next year, organizers hope to welcome even more. It's one example of how local organizations are working together to help neighborhood kids see new possibilities for their futures. **Stay tuned for updates on next summer's camp!**



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Scan the QR code to follow us on social media and join our mailing list. Be the first to hear about events, resources, and neighborhood news—don't miss out!



THANK YOU

to all our community partners and supporters

