Urban League
of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

I AM EMPOWERED

2024 Biennial Report

Dr. Vanessa Allen McCloud

President and CEO

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A Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity

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Our Mission

The mission of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc. is to promote services in education, economic empowerment, civic leadership, civil rights, and social justice to all residents of Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties.

Our Vision

To ensure the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc. continues to be the premier agency supporting and promoting neighborhood community collaborations.

Past Presidents

In honorable recognition of their leadership, commitment and service, we salute:

Joseph C. Chapman
Term: 1945-1949

Clifford E. Minton
Term: 1949-1965

George Coker
Term: 1965-1971

Roy L. Harris
Term: 1971-1976

Cleveland Nicholson, III (Acting)
Term: 1976-1978

Eloise Gentry
Term: 1978-2009

Dr. Vanessa Allen McCloud
President and Chief Executive Officer
2010 – Present

Over the past 14 years, it has been my honor to work alongside the Urban League of NWI's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers to provide services to the Northwest Indiana region in the areas of education, financial stability, and advocacy.

Our educational programming has touched the lives of more than 10,000 Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties middle and high school youth through college and career readiness workshops, STEM programs, and scholarships. In partnership with the "Infinite Scholars program," our "Scholarship Fair," financial scholarships offered to high school graduating seniors increased from $1.5 million in 2010 to $5.4 million in 2023!

Our "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance4" (V.I.T.A.) program has provided annual income tax service, free of charge, to over 500 clients annually. With the help of staff and volunteers, we participated in emergency food giveaways, provided food and rental assistance to needy families, and referenced customers to other agencies for specific assistance with homelessness and legal consultation.

In these challenging social and economic times, we continue our advocacy in diversity and inclusion professional development outreach services to local and surrounding area organizations.

The Urban League of NWI has taken the lead in providing opportunities and strategies of bringing awareness to the ongoing issue of race through facilitated diversity and inclusion professional development training on topics of implicit bias and stereotyping. We are the only agency in Northwest Indiana that recognizes local and surrounding area individuals, youth groups, non-profit agencies, and organizations for their proactive efforts to enhance diversity in the workplace and community through hosting an annual Diversity and Inclusion Awards Presentation. The Diversity and Inclusion Symposiums have served to provide various workshop presentations for a deeper dive into the subject matter.

The Urban League of NWI makes exceptional strides to provide a better quality of life for students, families, and community stakeholders. Many individuals and organizations made significant financial contributions that increased resources that assisted in providing services to northwest Indiana communities. I welcome your continued support and financial donations as we – together, make a difference. Every penny we receive is an investment in those who serve it most.

Empowering communities and changing lives is what the Urban League of NWI is all about!

DEFEND DEMOCRACY - DEMAND DIVERSITY - DEFEAT POVERTY

Urban League Board Members
2024

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R. Louis Gonzalez, Retired Chancellor

Treasurer
M. Celita Green, Municipal Accounting Consultant

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Chancellor Kenichi Iwama, Indiana University Northwest

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Joshauna Nash
NIPSCO

Bradley Rajek
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Comer Capital Group

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Lighthouse College Prep. Academy
Gisele Jones
Big Shoulders Fund
Dr. Trevaughn Davis Neal
NZINGA Mind and Heart
Chancellor Marcos Rodriquez
Ivy Tech Community College
Christina Wagner
Peoples Bank

Britney Bynum
Healthcare Executive
Kevin Comerford
Construction Advancement Foundation

Natalie McDaniel Hicks
WDS Group
Rev. Dr. Rameen Jackson
St. Timothy Community Church
Adrian Wells Lucas
Gary Game Changers
Guillermina Perez
Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana
Michael Suggs
City of Gary

An Abbreviated History of

Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Incorporated

The *"Urban League of Gary"* was founded June 25, 1945, as an affiliate of the **"*National Urban League*."** Its purpose was to remove the racial barriers that prevented African Americans from enjoying equal opportunities in housing, employment, education and many other facets of American life.

Thus, the "*Urban League of Gary"* was born with the commitment to strive for equal opportunity for all citizens. In December 1970, the Board of Directors voted to reorganize as the **Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Incorporated** to better reflect the service community of the Lake Area United Way; the targeted areas included Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties.

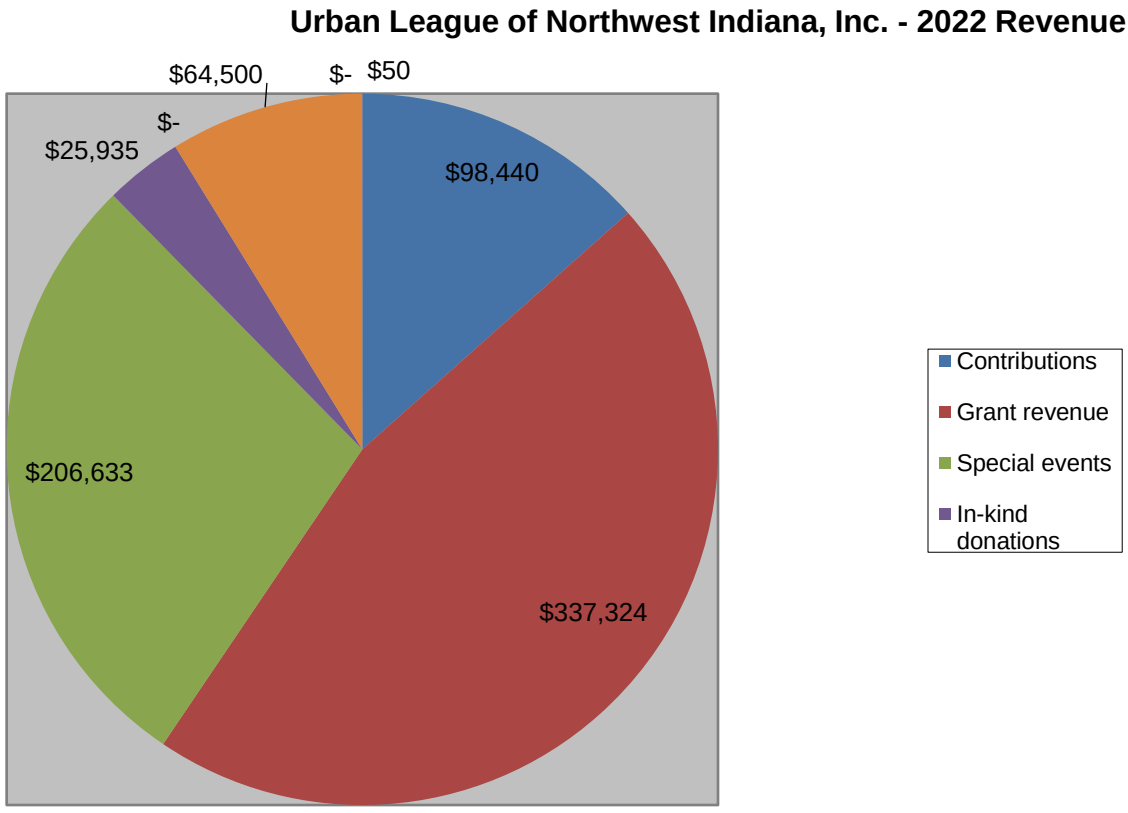
The **Urban League of Northwest Indiana** seeks to actively empower citizens throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties and aggressively address the social and economic needs of each community. This is achieved by serving as the catalyst for mobilizing people, institutions, and resources toward our goals in the areas of Education, Financial Stability, Diversity & Inclusion, and Advocacy.

We are actively engaged in

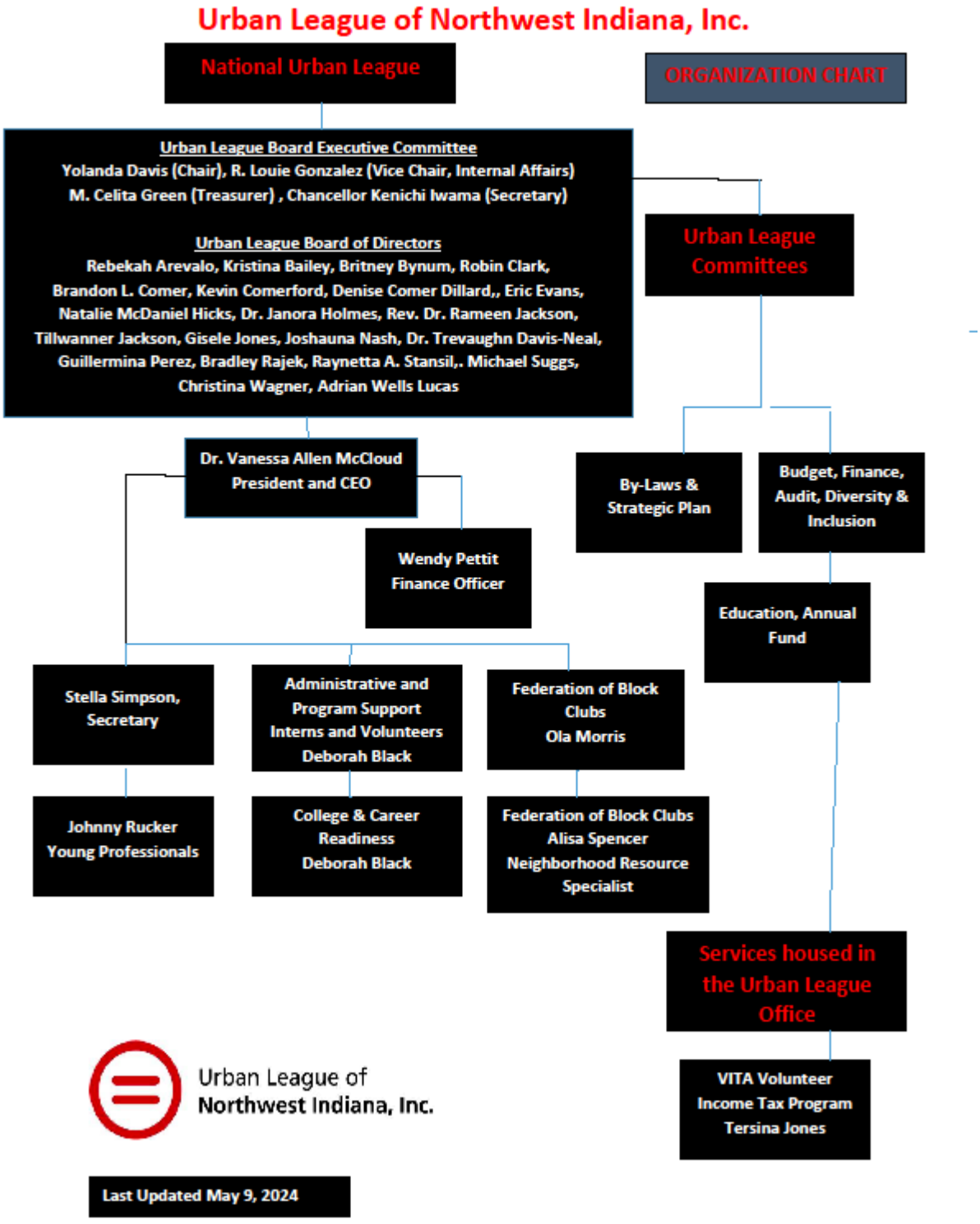
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVES

Throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties!

3101 Broadway, Gary, IN 46409
Office Phone: 219-887-9621
Fax Number: 219-887-0020
Website: www.ulofnwi.org


Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc. - 2022 Revenue
$64,500
$-
$50
$-
$25,935
$98,440
$206,633
$337,324
Contributions
Grant revenue
Special events
In-kind donations

Organization Chart



Urban League of Northwest Indiana. Inc.
3101 Broadway Gary, IN 46409
219-887-9621

Core Services and Signature Programs

Education: Providing Middle & High School Students with tools for post-secondary success

Scholarship Fair (Fall): A unique opportunity for high school Juniors and Seniors to visit with colleges and universities from throughout the United States in one location. It is not unusual for students to receive partial or full scholarships and on-the-spot, conditional admittance to colleges and universities.

Scholastic luncheon (Spring): It is where the Scholarship Winners meet. The Urban League administers over 50 scholarship funds sponsored by individuals as well as key Corporate and Community Stakeholders. At the annual luncheon, Scholarship Winners receive their scholarship awards and recognition for their academic achievements.

College Readiness (On-Going): A full curriculum to include a 6–8-week program sessions for middle and high school students that promote college and career options with a S.T.E.M. focus. Additional presentations include writing skills, financial aid tips, an exploration of career options, tours of local colleges and universities, and digital literacy is delivered to students in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties. Sessions are virtual until further notice.

Financial Stability: Provide opportunities for citizens to collaborate, increase awareness, and gain information on community and financial support.

Federation of Block Clubs (On-Going): The Urban League provides one-on-one support to citizens that guides them through the process of establishing a neighborhood block club.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Spring): Free preparation and E-file submission of income taxes for individuals who have annual incomes of $64,000 or less.

Diversity and Inclusion Awareness: To guide Northwest Indiana citizens through the processes of learning how to live, work and recreate with people who are different from them.

Diversity and Inclusion Training (On-Going): A team of professionally trained Diversity and Inclusion Consultants from the Urban League will tailor cultural competency, diversity and inclusion explorative dialogues for any size staff or team. The fees for trainings are contingent upon the scope of services that will be provided.

Diversity and Inclusion Symposium: The Symposium includes invigorating workshops, opportunities to engage in programs that further diversity education, and tools that can be used for making positive changes within any organization.

Diversity and Inclusion Luncheon: Recognition of organizations in Northwest Indiana with notable diversity and inclusion initiatives and celebration of diversity and inclusion programs implemented by Northwest Indiana High School Students.

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www.ulofnwi.org
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Programas Especiales

Area de Servicio Básico: Proporcionar a los estudiantes de la secundaria con herramientas para el éxito en la universidad

Feria de Becas (Otoño): Una opoftunidad única para los estudiantes del tercer y cuarto año de la secundaria para que visiten colegios y universidades de todo los Estados Unidos en una ubicación. No es insólito que estudiantes reciban becas ese mismo día, y admisión condicional a los colegios y universidades.

Almuerzo Escolástica (Primavera): Es donde los ganadores se reúnen. El Urban League maneja mas de 1 0 fundos de becas patrocinado por Key Corporate y Community Stakeholders. En el almuerzo anual, los ganadores de las becas reciben su premio y reconocimiento por sus esfuerzos académicos.

Preparación para la Universidad (Todo el Año): Un plan completo de estudios que incluye: presentaciones orales, habilidades en la escritura, consejos para ayuda financiera, exploración de las opciones de carrera, excursiones a colegios y universidades locales, el programa de IText-Wreck, y alfabetización digital a los estudiantes de la secundaria de los condados de Lake, LaPorte, y Porter.

Area de Servicio Básico: Proporcionar a los adultos con habilidades para obtener un empleo sostenible y la educación financiera

Asesoramiento Para el Empleo (Todo el Año): La Urban League brinda apoyo individual a los clientes para guiarlos a través del establecimiento de un asesoramiento para el empleo.

Asistencia para los Impuestos de Ingresos Anuales: (Primavera): Preparación gratis y presentación del E-flle de los impuestos de ingresos anuales de $64,000 menos.

Area de Servicio Básico: Guiar a los residentes de Noroeste Indiana por el proceso de aprendizaje de cómo vivir, trabajar, y recrear con la gente que son diferentes a ellos.

Entrenamiento de Diversidad y Inclusión (Todo el Año): Un equipo de consultores/as profesionales capacitados/as en Diversidad y Inclusión del Urban League adaptara la competencia cultural, la diversidad y la inclusión de dialogo exploratorios para cualquier tamaño personal o equipo. Los honorarios de los entrenamientos son contingentes sobre el alcance de los servicios que serán proporcionados.

Simposio de Diversidad y Inclusion (Otoño): El Simposio incluye talleres vigorizantes, oportunidades para participar en los programas que le da mas diversidad a la educación, y las herramientas que pueden utilizar para hacer cambios positivos dentro de cualquier organización.

Almuerzo de Diversidad y Inclusion (Primavera): Reconocimiento de las organizaciones en el noroeste de Indiana con diversidad notable y las iniciativas de inclusión y celebración de programas de diversidad y inclusión implemetads por estudiantes de I a secundaria del noroeste de Indiana.

3 101 Broadway, Gary, IN 46409
www.ulofnwi.org
Teléfono: 219-887-9621Número de
Fax: 219-887-0020

Diversity & Inclusion Luncheon

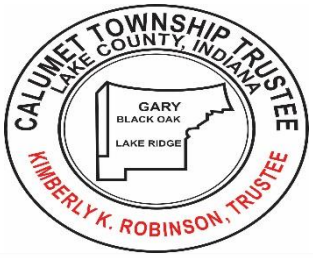
"Moving the Needle":

Advancing Diversity & Inclusion in Northwest Indiana

In October 2023, the ***Urban League of Northwest Indiana*** hosted its 11th Annual ***"Diversity & Inclusion Luncheon."*** During this event, we celebrated those organizations that not only support diversity and inclusion, but also practice diversity and inclusion. Our 2023 event was held in Merrillville, Indiana, with over 500 attendees joining the celebration. These Luncheons continue to recognize and celebrate those championing for and demonstrating diversity and inclusion within their organizations throughout Northwest Indiana!

Our Corporate Sponsors

Our Corporate Sponsors



2024 Diversity Symposium

Urban League of
Northwest Indiana, Inc.

FOBC
Neighbors Together

Federation of Block Club

SUMMER TRAINING SESSIONS

July 29, 2023

Training Topics:

1. Community Comments/Concerns
2. Audubon (Gardening and Planting)
   **Garden tools will be given out during this session.*

3. Building and Sustaining Your Block Clubs

Are you looking to start a Block Club?
Need monies for beautifying your Neighborhood?
Would you like to learn about available Community Resources?

RSVP REQUIRED by July 19, 2023
We will accept the first 50 reservations
Contact: Our Office @ (219-887-9621)

Lunch Provided

Monday thru Wednesday 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Time: 10:00 a.m. until 2:30
Location: Gary Public Library
220 W. 5th Ave. Gary

Ola Morris (FOBC Coordinator)
Alisa Spencer (Neighborhood Resource Specialist)
Dr. Vanessa McCloud (CEO & President)

FOBC VISION STATEMENT

It is the Federation of Block Clubs Units vision to continue improvements that will make Northwest Indiana a better region in which to live, work and make the principles of a true democracy a reality.

FOBC MISSION STATEMENT

The Federation of Block Club Units mission is to increase citizen participation in the improvement of maintenance and conservation of the neighborhoods in our community.

Ola Morris

Alisa Spender

Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Federation of Block Clubs

What is the Federation of Block Clubs?

The Federation of Block Clubs is an important component of the Urban League Movement. It is by organizing and mobilizing the community block-by-block that citizens have a more powerful voice in the community, the City and statewide.

Why should my block become a "Block Club"?

There are many problems in the community today that each of us are concerned about. What are your concerns? Is it the schools in the neighborhood, the need for recreation for the children and/or adults on the block, concerns about the safety of the neighborhood, raising utility rates, or even taxes? When people come together to develop solutions to their concerns their collective voice will be heard and there is action.

How do you start a Block Club?

Ask three or four of your neighbors if they would be interested in starting a Block Club. The Urban League of Northwest Indiana will help you to get organized.

Does it have to be just my block?

A Block Club can be several blocks that connect, it can be two streets connected by an alley, it can be an apartment building. You define what you want your "block" to be.

How often do we have to meet?

You set your own meeting schedule. Some Block Clubs meet monthly, some every six months, others only when they need to – it is up to the members of the Block Club.

For more information, contact the
Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
3101 Broadway – Gary, IN 46409
(219) 887-9621

Only you can make a difference!

The Young Professionals is a volunteer auxiliary of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc. The purpose of the Young Professionals is to support the mission of the ULNWI in promoting education, financial literacy and health and wellness in Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties. Specifically, the Young Professionals will aid the ULNWI through membership growth, philanthropy, and volunteerism.

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ASK YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT A
Gift Match!
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Find out if your employer matches gifts or volunteer hours.
Step 2
Fill out your employer's form from their HR Department.
Step 3
Submit
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Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

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3101 Broadway
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Telephone: (219) 887-9621
Fax: (219) 887-0020
Web: www.ulofnwi.org
Email: info@ulofnwi.org

Staff & Volunteers:

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3101 Broadway
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(219) 219-887-0020 (Fax)
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