

delivering the Promise

A Quarterly Publication of
Indianola Promise Community
SPRING 2014

When children get the right start,
Indianola prospers.

Early Childhood

Kindergarten

Grade 12

College and Career

IPC PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Imagination Library

We know from the latest research that the first three years of a child's life is a time of remarkable brain development. During this developmental period, the brain is primed to create connections between all its cells, and when children receive nurturing and enriching experiences, these connections – which power the brain – are created and strengthened. As such, early childhood experiences can have lasting positive or negative consequences for children.

In an effort to take advantage of this opportunity for success, the Indianola Promise Community, a project of Delta Health Alliance, has been funding the Imagination Library program in Sunflower County. The program mails one developmentally appropriate book per month to children from birth to five-years-old. The books are provided through our partnership with the Dolly Parton Foundation. Starting early, it is possible for a child to receive 60 early reader and picture books before ever entering kindergarten! Currently more than 850 families are receiving books.

A recent study of the effectiveness of Imagination Library sought to determine whether participation in the

program influences family reading habits and school readiness scores. Specifically, the study sought to answer if participants entering kindergarten (1) have better family reading habits and (2) have higher school readiness scores. The answer to both questions is **YES!**

This past fall, new kindergarten students at Lockard Elementary School took a school readiness assessment called the Measure of Academic Performance (MAP). With the kindergarten readiness scores from the MAP assessment, we were able to compare the readiness scores of the group of children who received Imagination Library books with the group of children who did not receive the Imagination Library program. As a group, children who received the Imagination Library books fared better than average on the MAP assessment. A child who participated in the Imagination Library intervention was twice as likely to be kindergarten ready in reading as a child who was not a participant. On the math part, Imagination Library students were two and a half times as likely to be kindergarten ready.

Family reading habits and other efforts to support the early vocabulary development and pre-literacy skills of infants, toddlers, and young children can pay significant dividends that extend beyond kindergarten entry and extend on into reading development across the first years of primary school. If your child is not signed up with the Imagination Library program, call us today!

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Indianola's flag was designed by Maggie Barnes who served as Ward 4 Alderman from 1998-2005. The flag was hung in City Hall in May 2011.



1. FLAG 2. MAYOR ARTHUR MARBLE

2 Arthur Marble was the first African American to be elected as mayor of Indianola in 2002. However, Otis Anthony, Sr. was the first African American to serve as mayor upon the death of Mayor Tommy McWilliams.

The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) is a community-based initiative to provide children with the opportunity to succeed in school, graduate, and attend college. Our priority is making sure children in Indianola have the opportunities they need to excel. The IPC is a project of Delta Health Alliance. For more information, to volunteer, and to get involved, call us or come by and visit us. IPC Office, 135 Front Street, Indianola, MS 38751, 662-686-3933

FAMILY spotlight

Tyrone Wade and Tammy Golden with son Tyreque Wade



The Indianola Promise Community honors a "Family of the Month."

Every month, a family is recognized for making exemplary efforts to improve their family life, strengthening their connections to the community, and setting an outstanding example for parental engagement. Five-year-old Tyreque Wade, a student of Cassie Pennington Head Start, is part of such a family.

Tyreque was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) at a very young age. The first couple of years of his diagnosis were very difficult as his parents were learning about the disorders and all it entails. Instead of his parents becoming discouraged, Tammy Golden and Tyrone Wade began working together to ensure their child would receive the best possible treatment and services.

Tyreque's parents placed him in the SPARK (Supporting Partnership to Assure Ready Kids) program, one of many funded by the Indianola Promise Community. Through SPARK, Tyreque received one-on-one tutoring from a learning consultant, plus other services. As his parents learned more about the diagnosis, they realized the importance of parental involvement and working as a team.

Tyreque's parents have routinely visited his school and alternated visiting the classroom in an effort to limit class disruptions. Although their original goal was to care for their son, they began to help out wherever they were needed. They would chaperon events or provide assistance to the teacher.

In addition to the classroom assistance Tyreque was receiving, his parents came to realize that family time and togetherness played a vital role in Tyreque's development. Each parent began to spend time with Tyreque on a one-on-one basis; and whenever possible, they spend time with Tyreque together.

Tyreque is an energetic little boy who enjoys fishing, going to the park, visiting relatives and friends, going on long drives, riding his bike, playing with his dog "Chuck" and competing in a good game of basketball. Through the love and dedication of his parents and the care from all involved, Tyreque is overcoming his challenges, while his parents have set an example for others to follow.



"IPC is Indianola's opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Programs we are

implementing are a hand up to provide people with the ability to be self sufficient and productive citizens."

– MAYOR STEVE ROSENTHAL

HEALTH & FITNESS 101



Children need 60 minutes of play with moderate to vigorous activity daily.

Here are a few activities your family can do to start on a path to a healthier lifestyle:

- Give children toys that encourage physical activity like balls, kites, and jump ropes.
- Encourage children to try a new physical activity.
- Limit TV time and keep the TV out of a child's bedroom.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.



- Make a new house rule: no sitting still during television commercials.
- Find time to spend together doing a fun activity: family park day, swim day, or bike day.



HealthyDelta

- Be sure that children get the sleep they need. Most children under age five need to sleep for 11+ hours per day, children age five to 10 need 10+ hours of sleep per day, and children over age 10 need at least nine hours a day.

www.letsmove.gov

Let's Move! is a comprehensive initiative, launched by the First Lady, dedicated to solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and able to pursue their dreams. Combining comprehensive strategies with common sense, Let's Move! is about putting children on the path to a healthy future during their earliest months and years. Giving parents helpful information and fostering environments that support healthy choices. Providing healthier foods in our schools. Ensuring that every family has access to healthy, affordable food. And, helping kids become more physically active.

TEENTALK

INDIANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY LOLITA GLADNEY

There is a saying, "If you want an answer to a question, go to the source." That is exactly what the Indianola School District did on March 18th, when they held their first "Teen Talk" at Carver Elementary School. Students from grades 5th – 12th from Carver Elementary School, Merritt Middle School and Gentry High School, were given an opportunity to express their feelings about their future, school enthusiasm and their well-being.

In October 2013, the students participated in a Gallup Poll which measured their hope, engagement, and well-being. These three areas have been shown to improve students' grades, test scores, decrease

drop-out rates, and improve their outlook on future employment opportunities.

The students were given the opportunity to discuss these topics freely and to also present their ideas on what the community, school, parents and teachers can do to increase their levels of hope, engagement and well-being. This opportunity allowed the students to hear how their peers felt and to realize that they shared some of the same concerns and ideas for improvement. Members of the Indianola School District, community and the Department of Education attended the forum.

Too often, young people are not



allowed to express themselves and this sometimes leads to them acting out in other ways. Teen Talk was an outlet to show the students that their well-being matters and that adults are interested in what they have to say.

Everyone needs and deserves to feel valued and that is exactly what was communicated to the students during this event.

The students were given hope and allowed to engage in meaningful conversation about their well-being. We look forward to this being the first of many opportunities of this kind. The Indianola Promise Community staff were present and facilitated the meeting.

communitypartners

THE HENRY M. SEYMOUR LIBRARY BY MARY ANN STONE, DIRECTOR



The Henry M. Seymour Library provides resources to meet the community's informational needs. We want to preserve and share knowledge through supportive, adaptable, equitable service and enjoyable lifelong learning experiences.

We believe the library should be the information center for our community. In 1945, the Indianola Library Association devised a plan to use \$25,000 donated by Henry M. Seymour to purchase a lot on the corner of Percy Street and Moody Avenue to build a library for the community. Plans were postponed due to World War II, but on July 14, 1958, the building was completed and ready to serve the citizens of Indianola.

Since then, the library has provided a large selection of books, periodicals, databases, and the Internet to fit everyone's need. The library's collection provides information access to small business development, job

and career resources, home repair and maintenance, consumer health, history and popular reading, works by Mississippi authors, historical artifacts of Sunflower County, genealogy, fiction for adults and teens, and children's literature. Resources are available in various formats including print, digital, and audio. We provide access to a large collection of periodicals and research materials through the statewide Magnolia Database, Learn-A-Test, and World Book Encyclopedia Online. Our library resources are enhanced through the participation of the statewide Resource Sharing program and the Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium. The library serves as a repository for one of the most comprehensive collections of Sunflower County music. Programs to promote lifelong learning such as summer reading programs for school age children, pre-school story times, author visits, book clubs, and information outreach programs, are conducted at the library. Henry M. Seymour Library prides itself as "the place to go when you want to know."



Indianola Promise Community
135 Front Street
Indianola, MS 38751

JUNE AND JULY

IPC Summer Camps

Indianola youth can attend camp in their own hometown.
For more information about the camps, call 662.686.3930.

SEPTEMBER 8 – 13

IPC Week

IPC week will focus on the families of Indianola with activities on health, literacy, personal growth and town hall meetings.

Current funding for the Indianola Promise Neighborhood is made possible in part through a grant from the Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood Program (Award # U215N120032).

MEET OUR STAFF INDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY



ROSHUNDA SAMPLE is a Project Manager for the Indianola Promise Community. Since 2010, Roshunda has managed various projects including the IPC Summer Camps and the KaBOOM! Park Build. Currently, Roshunda manages the B.B. King Art of Living Smart Program, in addition

to several projects funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation: SPARK, Promise School, Small World and the Mississippi Low Income Childcare Initiative (MLICCI). She also serves on Lockard Elementary School's Community Engagement Committee and was instrumental in developing the CARES Mentoring Program.

An Indianola native, Roshunda returned to Indianola in 2008 after receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Jackson State University and a Master's Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Planning and Administration from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Roshunda enjoys volunteering with numerous organizations: CARES Mentoring Program, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

and the March of Dimes. She is a member of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Roshunda also enjoys shopping, reading, and traveling.



JOHN ANDERSON is the Research Associate for the Indianola Promise Community. John assists the IPC Research Director in collecting program data, manages the assessment calendar, provides assistance with surveying the schools and community, and manages documentation of

IPC consent forms, in addition to researching best-practice approaches to address our Promise Community's needs.

John joined IPC in 2013. He comes to us from Collierville, TN. John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Tennessee at Knoxville and also attended the University of Memphis where he received a Master's of Public Administration degree. John's hobbies include reading, listening to music, and collecting posters and prints from music concerts.