

# delivering the Promise

A Quarterly Publication of  
Indianola Promise Community  
FALL 2014

*When children get the right start,  
Indianola prospers.*

Early Childhood

Kindergarten

Grade 12

College and Career

## 2014 INDIANOLA SURVEY

### **“When you are through changing, you are through.”**

That quote sums up the philosophy of the Indianola Promise Community, which has always viewed the ability to change and adapt as an ongoing effort and an opportunity to better serve Indianola residents.

So on November 3, IPC staff and members of the community will once again fan out to conduct a citywide survey about issues important to citizens.

“We need that feedback; we need to know how IPC can improve,” said Anthony Powell, an IPC project manager. “When you sit back and rely on the things you did yesterday, you stagnate and lose sight of tomorrow.”

The week-long Indianola survey is the second to be conducted in consecutive years. As many as 15 teams each comprised of one IPC staff member paired with a community member will conduct 325-350 door-to-door surveys lasting from 10- to 15-minutes. Surveys will be divided by: households with children not yet in school or kindergarten; those with children in kindergarten to eighth grade; and those with children in ninth to twelfth grade.

The survey will accomplish two important goals. First, using the same questions asked in the 2013 survey, IPC staff will be able to compare results to determine progress and the impact, both positive and negative, of IPC programs over the past year.

“The results will help determine the success of our efforts,” said Josh Davis, vice president of external affairs for the Delta Health Alliance, the parent organization of IPC. “We will assess strategies with our partners and figure out ways to adjust and take corrective action if necessary.”

Second, using a series of new questions, the survey will allow IPC to gain more insight into unanticipated changes that appear to have occurred within some programs during the past year.

“For example, we know we have experienced lower attendance rates in our after-school programs. All of our slots have not been filled,” said Davis. “Is transportation an issue? We can assume it is, but this year we will ask specific questions about transportation to find those answers. Maybe we need to put more resources into transportation for our kids. This will tell us.”

Questions for the survey were developed using federal guidelines, discussions with community leaders and residents, and insights gleaned by IPC project directors. Data is expected to be finalized in December, with a final report coming later.

#### **Survey questions ask about:**

- The kinds of places children go most often when they're sick.
- How much of the time parents or guardians check that a child's homework is complete or talk to a child about their report card or grades.
- Whether teachers or other school officials notify parents immediately when a child is having problems at school.
- Whether a household has Internet on a computer at home.
- Whether adults in their neighborhood can be counted on to watch out for the safety of their children and whether they get along with one another.
- Neighborhood crime, specifically the level of burglaries, assaults and drug sales in a given neighborhood.

“Every day, IPC is looking at the way we operate; how we serve residents; who's being left out; and what we can do to make sure we eliminate gaps,” said Davis. “To do those things, you have to have good data. This survey is another tool for change and will help us accomplish our goals.”

**“The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) Week was a huge success with lots of activities for children and families and information sharing. For more information on IPC Week, please turn to page 2.**

DEBORAH GREEN-MOORE, IPC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

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

# Indianola Promise Community Week



IPC OPEN HOUSE

1

**MONDAY**  
September 8

## IPC Open House

IPC office - 135 Front St  
11 am – 3 pm

12 Noon - IPC Week Kick Off and Proclamation by Mayor Steve Rosenthal

- Refreshments provided



2



IPC SHOWCASE

3

**TUESDAY**  
September 9

## IPC Showcase

Indianola Neighborhood Facility Building  
702 Roosevelt Street  
5:30 pm

Speakers: Karen Matthews, CEO Delta Health Alliance, and Carver Randle, Jr., Alderman

- IPC programs highlighted
- Audience participation
- Student art contest winners announced
- Sugar Plum Ballerinas performance
- Refreshments provided



4



5



6

**WEDNESDAY**  
September 10

## College & Career Fair

MDCC Coliseum - Moorhead  
9 am – 2 pm

Colleges and Businesses with educational and employment information and other services.

- 30+ vendors participating

## Community Garden Workshop

Indianola Freedom Garden  
Next to Carver Elementary  
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Guest speaker, Judy Belue of Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, will provide hands-on fall gardening tips.



7

**THURSDAY**  
September 11

## 9-11 Remembrance & Service Day

Carver Elementary School  
9 am – 1 pm

Service honoring acts of heroism of 9-11 with guest speaker, John Matthews.

- Health and education fair – FREE to the public including blood pressure checks and dental and vision screenings.
- Door prizes & refreshments provided
- Appreciation and recognition of soldiers and veterans and our local first responders.

## Financial Literacy Workshop

Mississippi Center for Justice,  
114 Court Ave • 5:30 pm

Panel discussion by local financial leaders and moderated by Abe Hudson, Delta State University.

- Financial education provided.
- Audience participation
- Refreshments provided

**SATURDAY**  
September 13

## Fit Day & Social Service Collaborative

Minnie Cox Park  
Faison Street, behind Subway  
11 am – 2 pm

Educational information provided on services available to Indianola residents.

- Health information given by registered dietitian.
- Physical activities for children ages 5 – 18.
- Healthy snacks and water provided.



11



12



**MONDAY - FRIDAY,**  
September 8 – 12

## Reading is SOUP-ER Reading Circles

Lockard and Carver Elementary Schools

Family members, Gentry High School students, and local business and community leaders will be guest readers.

Students can participate in a service project by bringing a can of soup on Friday, September 12 for local food banks.



13



14



15



16

17

READING IS SOUP-ER



COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

8



COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKSHOP

9



9-11 REMEMBRANCE DAY

10

- 1 IPC Open House proclamation ceremony and ribbon-cutting with an attendance over 125 people.
- 2 Dr. Karen Matthews, Delta Health Alliance CEO, shares IPC project outcomes with the 100+ crowd at the Showcase.
- 3 Open House visitors were able to learn more about IPC's 28 programs.
- 4 Carver Randle, Jr, Ward 5 Alderman; Rev. Otha Campbell and Mayor Steve Rosenthal provide support at IPC's Showcase.
- 5 Student entries from the "My Indianola" art contest.
- 6 The Sugar Plum Ballerinas entertaining the crowd at IPC Showcase.
- 7 Community children learning about gardening.
- 8 475 students and 30 colleges helped make the College and Career Fair day a success!
- 9 Judy Belue gets help planting turnip greens from community children.
- 10 Indianola Youth Council organized the 9-11 Remembrance & Service Day with over 330 attendees.
- 11 9-11 Remembrance Day – Attendees received health education and screenings.
- 12 250 volunteers read to 1,110 children during Reading is SOUPER week.
- 13 Kids of all ages had a great time at Fit Day.
- 14 Indianola's Fire Department was on-hand for Fit Day.
- 15 Angelic Mister, MCFAC, leads Zumba at Fit Day. Over 325 attended the Fit Day/ Social Services Collaborative Day.
- 16 DHA's registered dietitians, Ellen Durst and Sara Fincher, along with Community Health Worker Lula Reece provide healthy snacks and nutritional information on Fit Day & SSC.
- 17 Beverly Hale, Imagination Library Coordinator with Indianola's police and fire department giving time to read for IPC Week.



Indianola  
Promise Community  
SUPPORTED BY DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

# upcoming events

OCTOBER 31

WITCHES FEST

Imagination Library Read Aloud – Checkup with Dr. READ  
Sunflower County Library • 4-6 pm

NOVEMBER 1

EXCEL BY 5 / MLICCI CHILDCARE MATTERS

Family Fun, Learn and Training Day  
Morris Lewis Scout Hut • 711 Main Street  
9 am-12 pm

NOVEMBER 7

INDIANOLA YOUTH COUNCIL MOVIE NIGHT

Movie: Frozen  
Park at the corner of Second and Front • 5:30 pm

NOVEMBER 21

Imagination Library Read Aloud – Checkup with Dr. READ  
AW James Elementary School – Ruleville • 9:30 am  
North Sunflower Academy – Drew • 11:30 am

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).

Indianola Promise Community  
135 Front Street  
Indianola, MS 38751

## MEET OUR STAFF INDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY



**DEONDRIA WINDER** a resident of Leland, MS, received her Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Mississippi Valley State University and is currently employed at Delta Health Alliance (DHA), Indianola Promise Community (IPC). Deondria's main role at IPC is Linking Individuals Neighborhoods and Kids with Services (LINKS). Deondria assists Indianola students from Pre-K to high school by guiding them through the Indianola Promise Community's (IPC)

pipeline of programs to meet their individual needs. Alongside this, she also works directly with the families as a whole to offer referral services, and setting realistic goals to drive the family forward and make them more accountable. In addition, Deondria also takes to the table with her training in Parent As Teachers (PAT) and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). She incorporates these trainings into her everyday duties as a LINKS. Deondria also volunteers in the community by mentoring in the C.A.R.E.S program. She hopes to share experience and wisdom, motivate, listen and provide a positive influence with her mentorees. Deondria loves working for DHA/IPC as a LINKS and plans to captivate many minds and engage them into everything positive the world has to offer.

Deondria is the mother of three (3) daughters and she enjoys spending quality time with them. Her hobbies include traveling, baking, and volunteering in the community.

**MELINDA BELL YOUNG** a long-time resident of Greenwood, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Mississippi Valley State University in 2008. Melinda came on board with



Delta Health Alliance in 2010 as a Research Assistant with DHA's Body and Soul project. In 2012, she transitioned to the Delta Healthy Sprouts program working as a Research Assistant/Parent Educator. Melinda began her current position as a Parent Education with the Delta Parents As Teachers project in 2013 with the Indianola Promise Community project. Currently and in addition to her role as Parent Educator, she also works as a Triple P Practitioner.

As a Parent Educator, she serves families who are expecting or have children between the ages of 0 and 5, by visiting them once a month and educating them on better parenting skills and empowering them to put these skills into action. Melinda also equips them with materials and the resources that they need to ensure that their family will have the well being that they need to survive once the program had ended for them. While earning her degree, Melinda knew she wanted a career focused on people. "I wanted to figure out what I could do to make the world a better place for everyone as a whole, but knew that first I would need to understand the culture of the groups. Even as a young girl I knew that I wanted to serve at a job aimed at bettering communities."

As an active member of St Paul Cathedral and RAW Outreach Ministry in Greenwood, MS, Melinda serves as a Praise Dancer and the Pastor's Aide. In addition to church outreach, Melinda enjoys dancing, family time, community functions, history lectures, SHOPPING, and reading novels. One of my favorite quotes for life is "If we all do a little, we can do a lot."