

2021

NeighborLink
INDIANAPOLIS FOUNDATION, INC



COMMUNITY REPORT

MISSION

The mission of NeighborLink Indianapolis is to help low-income homeowner seniors and individuals with disabilities in Marion County, Indiana age in place safely by providing home repair services at no cost to the homeowner.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

GRANTS • VOLUNTEERS • PARTNERSHIPS



2021 WAS A GREAT YEAR

We hit the ground running in 2021!

March 2021 - Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle club kicks off our group volunteer season

April 2021 - Awarded funding from Lilly Endowment through CICF for BYPlus program

June 2021 - Awarded the Changemaker Grant from Impact 100

June 2021 - Joined with Rebuilding Together to Revitalize a Neighborhood

September 2021 - Founder, Dave Withey was awarded the Golden Hoosier Award
Rachel Nelson assumes Executive Director role

October 2021 - Resumed indoor projects in a new way - with paid handy people and trade partners for select projects

October 2021 - Hosted our first large volunteer event, "BOO! Home Repair Doesn't Have to be Scary"

October 2021 - First class of Marian University Social Work Students began homeowner visits with our Client Services team

December 2021 - Completed our 533rd project for the year. A record for NeighborLink Indianapolis



"GRANDMA"

Fifty years in a neighborhood is a pretty substantial amount of time. For Ms. Wanda Ward, also known as “Grandma,” it’s been her home, her community, and the hub of her family for decades. Though Grandma has oodles of grandkids, she’s known throughout the neighborhood by that moniker.

“I helped rear almost all the children in our neighborhood. They would come to my house and play while their families were at work, explained Ms. Ward. “Everybody just started calling me Grandma.”

Grandma has worked hard to preserve her home for her future generations. When she and her late husband purchased this home on the Westside of Indianapolis, the intent was to do so for the blessing of their children’s children.

“I feel when you move into a house that it’s your home,” said Grandma. “You’re supposed to protect it and it protects you.”

However, after the passing of her husband and the constant “can we put this in your garage?” from friends and family, things began to get away from Grandma. This past year she was cited by the Marion County Public Health Department for several exterior issues with her home and yard.

It wasn't the citations that initiated the call to NeighborLink, it was because her sister had fallen down her front steps. She needed the handrail fixed for safer in-and-out access. Not only did our assessors note the handrail needing work, but the citation cases around the yard and home were certainly within our abilities as well.

“It makes my heart just melt because, you know, in this day and age you feel like there’s just not that many people out there that care.”

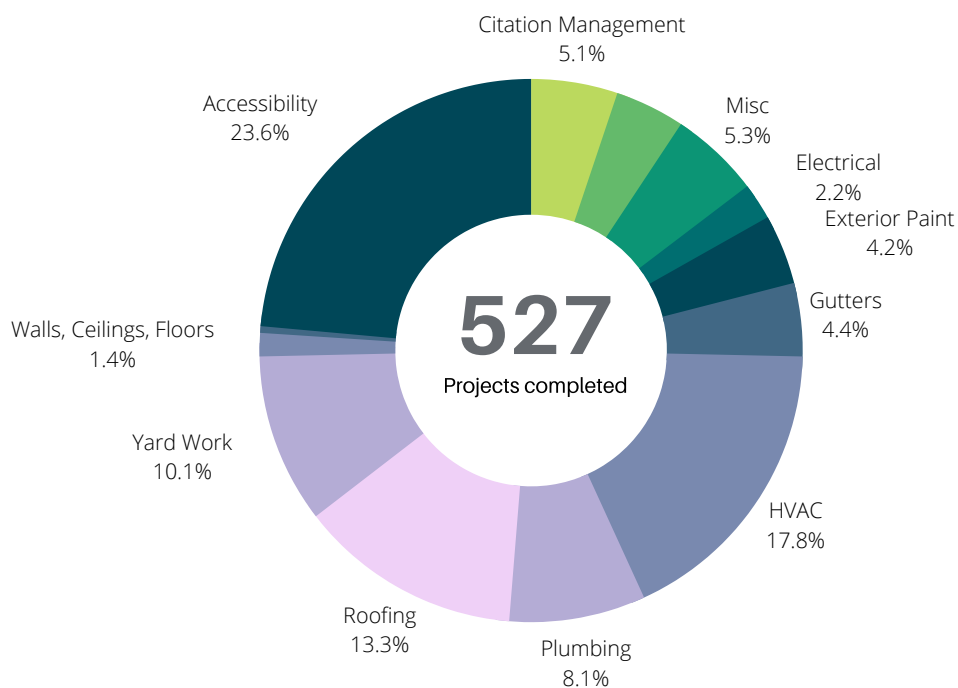
Grandma noted this after being asked how seeing the host of volunteers at her house made her feel. “I can't believe that there are so many young people willing to help and do things like this. To see all the cars and all the people that came to help, I just could not believe it!”

A mixed group of volunteers gathered and tackled Grandma's yard, garage and everything in between. They cleared out debris so the garage wall that had been cited could be worked on by our BY Plus Trainees. The backyard was made so much safer for her great grandkids and up front the volunteers cleared the way for repairing the handrail and steps.



WORK COMPLETED

We broke records in 2021! Our organization officially moved from volunteer leadership to a paid leadership staff and put key software in place. Those infrastructure moves proved to be huge successes for our ability to serve more homeowners and complete more repair projects. We perfected our processes for group projects and shifted our model to adapt to the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic.



528
Projects completed



\$1,246
Average monthly income
of the homeowners helped

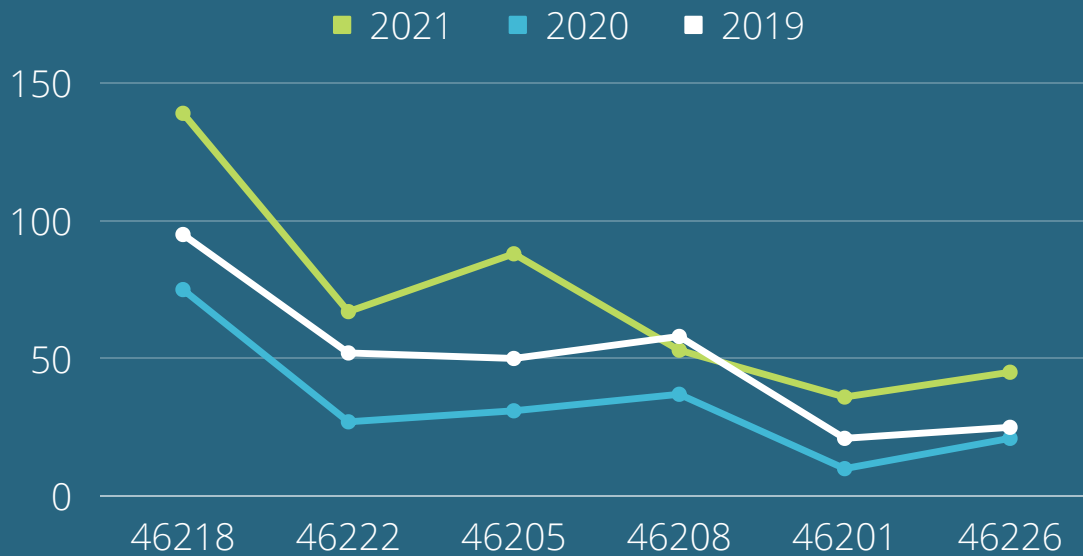


236
Homeowners helped



97
Age of our oldest
homeowner helped

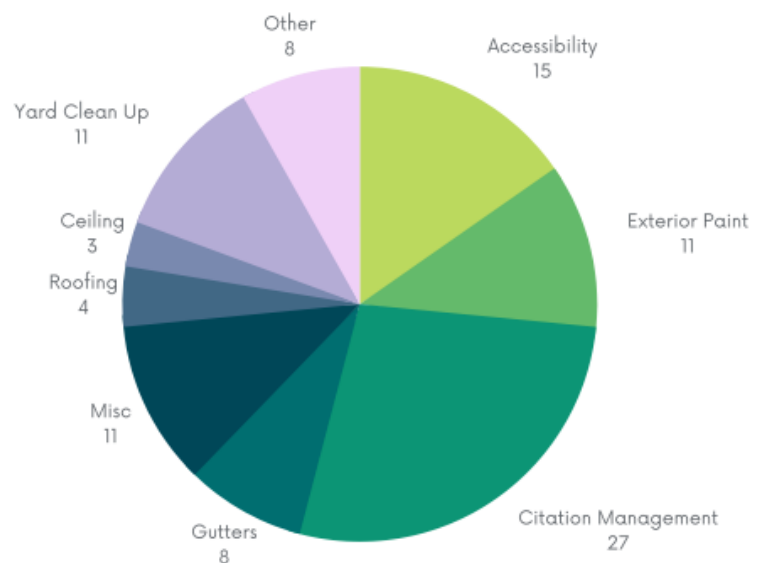
MOST SERVED ZIP CODES



Our service geography still remains Marion County, Indiana for citation cases and within the 465 loop North of Washington St. for non-citation cases. However, we continue to see the need for our services most heavily within these six zip codes.

CITATIONS

Citations from The Marion County Public Health Department are a high priority for NeighborLink Indianapolis. Homeowners who have been given citations are at risk of steep fines and could even potentially lose their homes. MCPHD is a great partner with NeighborLink Indianapolis; they realize the stress a citation puts on a homeowner and frequently refer cited homeowners to us for help.



31

homeowners
helped with
citations



19%

of completed
projects are
citation projects



98

citation projects
completed

BYPLUS

We were awarded funds from CICF on behalf of Lilly Endowment Inc. through its initiative, Enhancing Opportunity in Indianapolis. The grant supports a construction trade training program called BY Plus: Good People, Good Jobs, Good Careers. The program is led by the foundation in collaboration with Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation, Indianapolis Legal Aid and Neighborlink Indianapolis.

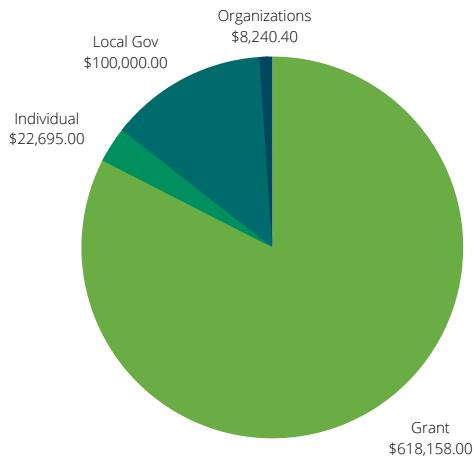
We successfully completed two work experience cohorts of BY Plus trainees in 2021. In first two cohorts we were able to meet the students at their level of competency and comfort. We worked through basics like how to safely use a miter saw, and using different types of screws based on the job. Using real projects for homeowners allowed us to walk through problem solving scenarios to help prepare the students for on-the job situations.

For our first cohort, we tackled yard grading, concrete repair, wood fence construction, siding repair, and painting. During our second cohort we safely removed a wood deck, graded around the existing deck, and used a post hole digger to set our posts for the new deck. In addition to the deck, we installed a new section of gutters and repaired vinyl siding that was damaged in a small fire.

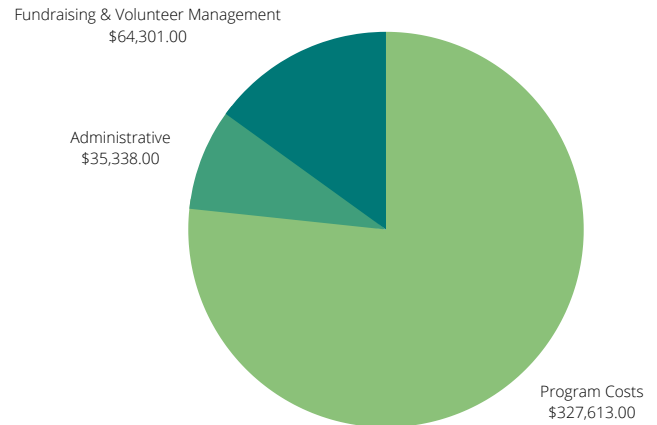
We helped three different homeowners and completed 16 projects. Of those 16 projects, 12 were citations. Thankfully we were able to help and get them in a good position to clear those citations



INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We were blown away by the community support this year. Not only were we awarded grant funding to help support our growth and infrastructure establishment, we were awarded grant funding to support our need for hired subcontractors to take on the backlog of COVID related projects. In addition to these grants, we were awarded the grant funds to support hiring two full time project coordinators specific to the BYPlus program. This enabled us to accomplish even more home repair projects.

VOLUNTEERS

In addition to community support through funding, we had a whopping 35 volunteer groups come out and serve our seniors with a fair amount of elbow grease. These pre-organized groups joined us from community organizations, companies, churches and even groups of friends all gathered and met the needs of our communities with such enthusiasm it was a huge boost to our homeowners in more ways than one.



OUR TEAM

Founder Dave Withey retired in September from the Executive Director role and appointed Rachel Nelson as the organization's first paid Executive Director. Dave remains as advisor and helping with development needs as well as directing a gutter repair team. It has been noted on multiple occasions Dave is not great at "retiring."

This year our leadership team grew to be comprised of eight paid staff and a number of dedicated handy volunteers.



BOARD

Phil Kirk, President

Tom Hawkins, Vice President

Terrance White, Treasurer

Dave Withey, Board Member and Founder

Dan Amonett, Board Member

Jeanette Jefferis, Board Member

Jake Engel, Board Member

Debra Carroll, Board Member