



COLUMBIA CITY AREA
Chamber
of **COMMERCE**
working for members, through members

Issue: October 2009

•
www.columbiacity.org

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The Chamber
Ambassador Team Awards the
October Business of the Month:

***Simonson Estates
Apartments***

We're Making an IMPACT! Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Monthly Newsletter

Set Sail Thursday, October 22 for the Annual 2009 Awards Banquet- Destination... "Blue Hawaii"

Most of the people I've spoken to lately are not ready to see summer fade into fall. We can't do anything about the seasons, but we can still enjoy a little extension to our summer! The Columbia City Area Chamber invites you to a very special version of our Annual Recognition Banquet!

This year we plan to immerse ourselves in a sense of the blue waters of Hawaii by offering a banquet of tropical food and drinks, set against a background of island music and décor. We encourage attendees to come in casual tropical dress and be entered to win a tropical evening out for their "best tropical outfit." You could earn a great surprise gift by winning the "mystery mixer" and other door prizes just by participating in the evening!

And a very special announcement will unveil a chance at a prize you won't want to miss!

The evening begins at 6:00 pm at the Eagle's Nest Event Center and the cost is \$35 for a single registration or \$250 for a table of eight for chamber members. Non-chamber members are welcome to join us for \$50 per person and \$280 for a table of eight. And attention South Whitley and Churubusco Chamber members! We invite you to attend at our chamber member price!

Registrations are due to the chamber office by October 14, so call, e-mail, fax or register on-line today!!! Aloha!

Thank you to our many sponsors who have



**Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
2009 Annual Awards Banquet**

BLUE HAWAII

**Thursday, October 22, 6:00 pm
at Eagle's Nest Event Center**

Plan to attend this year's Chamber Banquet,
"Blue Hawaii."

A casual evening of island themes, music and foods.
Dress the part and be entered
to win a tropical night out.

Aloha

joined together to make this event possible. Event sponsors: Crossroads Bank, J&J Insurance Solutions, Lake City Bank, Northeastern REMC, Parkview Whitley Hospital, Star Financial Bank/Star Insurance Agency. Recognition Award Sponsors: J&K Communications, Parkview Whitley Hospital

Entertainment & Prize Sponsors: Reiff Construction, J&J Insurance Solutions, and Five Star Distributing

Chamber "Bucks" Return

Beginning October 1, 2009, the Chamber has returned to an in-house shop local gift certificate program! The new program has a familiar name, but has lots of new and improved

features! It will be housed in a local bank for safe-keeping and will provide our community with a valued resource to keep the shopping dollar here!

Chamber Bucks are now available at the chamber office in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$25 and can be used at any participating chamber member business. See the enclosed insert for all the details of the new program and shop local!!!



Warning About a New Version of A Familiar Scam

BBB of Northern Indiana issued an alert recently regarding a scam wherein the fraudster wanted to purchase several de-icing items from a business owner. Because of that warning, a \$9,000 scam in the works at another business was thwarted. After the (second) business owner read the alert and became suspicious, they thanked BBB for the warning before it was too late, as they were ready to complete their shipment. The message (as written) to the company went like this:

"This is Mr. Phil Michels. And I Will Like To Know If You Can Order Me A Natural Gas 400,000 BTU Pool Heater . I Will Be More Than Happy If You Can E:Mail Me With The Quote on 3 units of that Plus Tax But exclude shipping cause I will recommend a freight company that will come pick them as soon as I make payment. Also I Will Like To Know If You Accept Credit Card As A Method Of Payment So That I Can Arrange For The Payment Immediately. Hope to hear from you soon.....Thank You. Phil...

The business sent the quote, and this was "Phil's" reply: "Hello, thanks for the quote, before I arrange for payment, I will like you to do me a favor and contact the freight company that I want to use a (SPEED.AIR-FREIGHT1@YAHOO.COM) with the weight and size of the heaters so that they will give you the shipping cost of shipping them from your address to the following address: David & Co. Inc., 440 airport residential area, Accra-Ghana00233.

If your business should receive anything like this through e-mail or phone, please alert BBB toll-free at 1.800.552.4631 or your local BBB office in Fort Wayne. (Courtesy of the Huntington Chamber newsletter)

Added note: This scam is one that often hits people who sell vehicles, etc... on-line. Always be wary of any person asking you to send money in order for them to complete the purchase of any item you are selling!

Business Briefing Sponsorships still available for 2009-10

A business briefing luncheon is a great opportunity for business sponsorship! The luncheons are once a month (except December) from September to May and there are still openings for this season! Call the chamber office to schedule your month before they are all filled!

Small Business Development Center

Did you know that business counseling is available free of charge? The SBDC offers appointments to help you examine all the needs of starting or maintaining a business as well as periodic classes to help improve your business knowledge and skills. Call the chamber office for your no-cost assessment!

2009 Platt Books Now Available

The Whitley County Platt Books for 2009 are now available at the chamber office! Stop in anytime between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday to purchase your copy!

Chamber Cheers

Special thanks to all the Day of Caring volunteers from Parkview Whitley Hospital that took a day of their time to help us with the extra projects we have too little time and staff to keep up with! You made us look a whole lot better, both inside and out! And we are grateful!

We are so appreciative of the combined efforts of the Farmer's Market, the City of Columbia City, and the County Commissioners who helped to fund and take care of the flower baskets downtown this past summer. What a difference a little beauty makes to the atmosphere of our fair city! Cheers to all of you!!!



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**Public Safety
Academy
of Northeast
Indiana**



“Staying Open for Business”

The PSA of NE Indiana in partnership with Indiana Tech, IPFW, Ivy Tech Community College and Trine University have planned a no-cost, half-day public seminar funded by a congressionally mandated award through Congressman Mark Souder.

On Friday, November 13, 2009, from 8 am – 1:30 pm, presenters will address numerous topics that face small businesses during tight economic times to help them face unexpected disasters. Those topics will include:

- Data Breaches
- Employee Safety
- Hardware Failure
- Data Corruption
- Identity Theft
- Developing an Appropriate (and legally mandated) Recovery Plan

Expert presenters from Capital Strategies Group, Safer Worker Systems, DWD Tech Group and Tech Defenders will assist attendees as they explore the above topics as well as federal and state regulations. For more information, or to register, visit www.ipfw.edu/dcs/openforbusiness or call 260-481-6619

**CHAMBER BUCKS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Denominations of
\$5, \$10, and \$25

Can be used at any participating
chamber member business.

**See the enclosed insert
for all the details!**



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Business Briefing



Luncheon

Fri., Oct. 16, 11:45 am

**“Location Branding”
Powerful Strategies to Attract Jobs
and Boost Economies**

Jim Walton, President and CEO of Brand Acceleration, Inc. of Indianapolis, IN. Jim Walton shares vital information about how to “brand” communities in a way that gets them noticed.

at the Eagle’s Nest Event Center

\$10 for chamber members– \$12 for non–members

Sponsored by:

Speaker Sponsored by :



**Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 14, 2008
Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce**

Phone: 260-248-8131 • Email: chamber@columbiacity.org

If you reserve a meal, and you do not attend the luncheon,
you will be invoiced for your reservation.

Wonderland of Lights Drive-Thru

**Opening Night
Benefits Toys for Tots**



November 27, Wonderland of Lights Drive-Thru begins! It's Toys for Tots night which means admission to see the lights is either a cash or toy donation. To kick off the season, the chamber is hosting a party for the kids at the Morsches Park Pavilion at 4:00 pm! Come see the “Polar Express,” enjoy juice and popcorn, and watch the lights come on for the first time at 6:00 pm! The drive-thru light show will continue every weekend, Friday and Saturday from 6 – 10 pm and Sundays from 6 – 9 pm, through December 27.



Impact Deadline for November

Articles and printed inserts (100) are due to the chamber office by Friday, October 23. In addition to your printed inserts, please supply a low rez pdf version which can be e-mailed to the office at office@columbiacity.org. The pdf file will be used for the email newsletter blast.

Welcome New Members!

Edward Jones Investments
Rick Trump

202 E. Chicago St., Columbia City, IN
Phone: 260-248-2677 Fax: 866-444-7115
www.edwardjones.com
rick.trump@edwardjones.com

Rick Trump is the newest agent for Edward Jones in Columbia City offering a full range of financial services, investment opportunities and financial counseling.

B.E. Computers & Hobbies
Steve Beck

130 W. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN
Phone: 260-248-8020 Fax: 260-244-4688
Beck Enterprises offers computer sales and service, e-bay services, and also specializes in hobbies such as comic books.

Renewing Members!

Shoes & Moore

Area Classes Offered

Classes at Peabody Public Library
260-244-5541

Basic Computers Class, Tues., Oct. 6, 2 PM
This class is for the complete novice. Learn parts of the computer, how to use the mouse and have fun learning. Space limited to 10. You MUST register for this class. This is a FREE class.

“What are all those extra keys on my computer keyboard?”- Tues., Oct. 27, 2 PM
Learn some keyboard shortcuts and find out what all those confusing F1, F2... keys are all about. Space limited to 10. You must register for this class. This is a FREE class.

Classes through the Freedom Academy
1-800-200-6499

Basic Medical Insurance, Wednesdays,
10/14/2009 – 12/16/2009, 6-9 pm at Parkview Whitley Hospital

Board Governance, Wed., Oct. 21, 1 to 4 pm at Peabody Public Library

7 Habits for Teens, Mon., Nov. 9, 4 to 7 pm at Peabody Public Library

Classes through Extension Office
Whitley County Learning Services
244-7615

MS Excel: Oct. 5 & 7, 6-9 pm, \$60
MS Publisher: Oct. 12 & 14, 6-9 pm, \$60
MS Access: Oct. 19, 20 & 22, 6-9 pm, \$90
Basic Computer, Internet & E-Mail: Oct. 26 & 28, 6-9pm, \$60
MS Word: Nov. 2 & 4
MS Excel: Nov. 16 & 18
MS Publisher: Nov. 30 & Dec. 2
MS Access: Dec. 14, 15, & 17

IMPACT

The official publication of the
Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (260) 248-8131 • Fax: (260) 248-8162
www.columbiacity.org

Our Chamber Mission

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life in our community by leading, supporting and facilitating business.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Jack Moore– President
John Meister– Vice President
Deb Roy– Treasurer
Melinda Woll– Secretary
June Keiser– Past President

Board Members:

Jim Banks, Doug Brown, Bill Foulke,
Teresa Ladd, Judy Moore,
Franz Morsches, Ben Romine,
Jay Starr, Grant Trier, and Cari Wells

Chamber Staff

Pat Hatcher, Executive Director
Michelle Culbertson,
Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Production

Graphics: Peggy Ewing–ADS, Inc.
Printed by: Hinen Printing

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CHAMBER IMPACT PRESS RELEASE

Edward Jones Investments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Rick Trump Office, 202 E. Chicago St. Columbia City, Phone: 248-2677

Rick Trump, newest agent in the Edward Jones Investments team in Columbia City, hosted a gala Ribbon Cutting at his office located at 202 E. Chicago St. The attendees were treated to a full buffet of desserts and finger foods as well as special give-aways to commemorate the day. Edward Jones is a full-spectrum investment company, offering qualified financial advising. The company has been ranked the highest in investor satisfaction by J.D. Power & Association. For further information visit their web-site at www.edwardjones.com.

Present to celebrate Trump's entry into the company were (front row, left to right) Ambassador Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; Trump's wife Monica Trump; Rick Trump, Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher, Edward Jones Office Manager Theresa Liggett (back row, left to right) Ambassador Kristi Maloney, Sycamore Village; Ambassador Lee Aumsbaugh, Aumsbaugh Flooring; and Ambassador Melinda Woll, fellow Edward Jones Investments advisor.

STAFCO Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



STAFCO- 365 S. James St., Columbia City, Phone: 248-8971

Steel Tank and Fabricating Corporation recently hosted a Ribbon Cutting in cooperation with the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce and the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation to highlight the completion of their expansion project. STAFCO, as they are often referred to, was established in 1952 by the Kennedy family of Indianapolis. The Kennedy's have over 100 years invested in the tank and manufacturing in-

dustry with the original business, Kennedy Tank and Manufacturing Co., Inc. begun in 1898.

This expansion doubles the size of the production space from 7,200 to 14,400 square feet, and is the fourth expansion in the company's 57 year history. It also increases the production ability to include tanks of a larger diameter and heavier weight, some weighing over 60,000 lbs. STAFCO's tanks service multiple industries including agricultural, chemical, asphalt and petroleum, both above ground and underground versions.

Patrick Kennedy, President since 1993, graduated from Notre Dame and spent numerous years working in the original company, learning almost every aspect of the business from the ground floor up by experience. Carl Norris, Vice President and General Manager of STAFCO, has been running the daily operations since 1985, and Michael Reed, has run the production end of the company since 1990.

Attending the ceremony were Chamber Executive Director Patricia Hatcher, Whitley County Economic Development Director Alan Tio, City Clerk Rosie Coyle, Chamber Ambassadors Kristi Maloney of Sycamore Village, Sue Roman of Miller's Merry Manor, Lee Aumsbaugh of Aumsbaugh Flooring, and Randy Holler of Crossroads Bank, as well as the employees of STAFCO. Congratulations on 57 years in Columbia City and best wishes on 57 more!

AK Cleaning Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



AK Cleaning, Allshya Fetters, Phone: 248-1328

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for AK Cleaning LLC. AK Cleaning's owner, Allshya Fetters, began her business in 2008 as a residential and commercial cleaning company with two goals in mind: to give stay at home mothers the opportunity for employment and to bring a quality, flexible cleaning service to those who need a little help. Her mantra is that AK Cleaning cleans "your way" which makes it easier for them to tackle small or large jobs.

Fetters utilizes "stay at home moms" as her workforce, allowing them to have flexible schedules, and prides herself on using environmentally friendly cleaners to help make the home a safe place for children. They are especially open to working for seniors, offering affordable rates, bi-weekly, monthly and one-time cleanings. Besides being a chamber member, AK Cleaning is insured and offers references as needed. Please call 260-248-1328 for more information.

Present for the ceremony were (front row, left to right) Owner Allysha Fetters, Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher, AK Cleaning Employee Li-ane Creech, (back row, left to right) Sue Roman, Miller's Merry Manor; AK Cleaning employee Melissa Love, Lee Aumsbaugh, Aumsbaugh Flooring; and Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank.



IVY Tech Community College Student Life Center Ribbon Cutting

The Northeast Campus of Ivy Tech Community College extends an open invitation to visit the newly renovated Student Life Center and participate in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, October 22, 2009. The ceremony begins at 1:30 and the festivities will continue until 4 pm. The Center officially opened at the beginning of the Fall 2009 semester, although some work was not yet completed. The Grand Opening will showcase the updated home of the Admissions office, Student Life offices, faculty offices, wellness and fitness centers, laboratories and a cafeteria. The college welcomes you to enjoy refreshments, music, and a time of celebration with their staff and students!

CCHS Band Boosters Request Special Need

The CCHS Band Boosters are in need of a golf cart to help with some band students with special physical needs. If you have one you might be willing to part with, please contact Leslie Rentschler at 609-8228 for more information.

Please email
or fax your press releases...
Fax: 260-248- 8162
or Email:
chamber@columbiacity.org



COLUMBIA CITY
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



2009

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 9, Policy Issue Conference Call “Health Care Costs and Workplace Wellness,” 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Chamber conference room. RSVP to the chamber office to join in on this important and informative discussion with the Indiana Chamber representatives.

Saturday, October 10 – Celebrate the final day of the Farmer’s Market with the “Harvest Moon” Festival. 8 am – 12 pm, Downtown Columbia City. Also dubbed the Pumpkin Festival, last year’s event was a “smashing” success! Lots of activities, contests, food and fun for all ages!

Friday, October 16 – Business Briefing Luncheon – “Location Branding: Powerful Strategies to Attract Jobs and Boost Economies.” 11:45 am at the Eagle’s Nest Event Center. Join Jim Walton, a community branding specialist for an informative session on how to get our community noticed! RSVP to the chamber office by Oct. 14. \$12 or \$10 for members.

Wednesday, October 21 – Lady Eagles vs. Breast Cancer Soccer, 5 pm at CCHS.

Thursday, October 22, “Blue Hawaii” Chamber Annual Recognition Event, 6 pm at Eagle’s Nest Event Center. Dress for a casual night of tropical food, music and fun. Great prizes and networking planned! Don’t miss this one!!!! RSVP to the Chamber office by October 14!

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 27 & 28, 10 Hr. OSHA Training Seminar. 8 am – 4 pm, Room C of the Government Building. Contact the Chamber office for registration and cost information.

November 5 – Leadership Whitley County “Food & Wine Extravaganza,” 7- 9 pm at the Eagle’s Nest Event Center. Tickets are \$25, and a limited number of VIP tickets allowing an early entrance are available at \$35. Call 799-4045 for more information or purchase your tickets at The Dock, J&J Insurance and Star Financial Bank.

November 6 & 7 - Extension Holiday Bazaar & Quilt Show – Friday, 9 am – 6 pm and Saturday, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm at the 4-H Center. Call 244-7615 or visit www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley for more information.

November 14 – The Post & Mail “Business Expo” – Indian Springs Middle School. Call 244-5153 for more information.

November 20 – Business Briefing Luncheon, 11:45 am at Eagle’s Nest Event Center.

November 21 – “Yuletide Treasures Bazaar” – 9 am to 3 pm at Indian Springs Middle School to benefit the Columbia City High School Show Choirs.

November 27 – Wonderland of Lights Drive-Thru– Fridays through Sundays until December 27. Friday & Saturday hours will be 6 to 10 pm, and Sunday hours will be 6 to 9 pm.

Your Chamber’s Mission...

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life in our community by leading, supporting and facilitating business.

For further details on these events or other events in our area, contact the chamber at 260-248-8131.

Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
201 N Line St, PO Box 166
Columbia City, IN 46725

<http://www.columbiacity.org>



Business *of the* M O N T H

Awarded by the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team

September's Business of the Month Aumsbaugh Flooring



Aumsbaugh Flooring

1032 W. DePoy Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Phone: 260-248-8206

Fax: 260-248-8207

Visit us on the web at:
www.aumsbaughflooring.com

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team has awarded the Business of the Month for September to Aumsbaugh Flooring. Recently relocated from its building on Van Buren Street to 1032 W. DePoy Dr., just off US 30, the flooring store was established in 2003. Although owner Lee Aumsbaugh and secretary Tammy McQueen are the only full-time employees, the store works with a regular range of 6-8 full and part-time subcontractors, which include his sons, Paul & Herschel.

An active member of the Chamber of commerce, Aumsbaugh Flooring makes it their goal to offer attractive, quality flooring at affordable prices. Their aim is to see their customers create the nice home they desire at a reasonable cost, says Aumsbaugh.

The business offers everything from a simple one-room carpet replacement to whole house floor coverings to custom ceramic showers. Plus, their new location provides a beautiful environment for customers to envision and plan their own projects.

Over the years, Aumsbaugh has supported many chamber projects, and is an active Ambassador member. He also is a dedicated Lions Club member, championing the cause of making sure all children who need glasses receive them.

Present for the ceremony were (front row, left to right) Herschel Aumsbaugh, Gloria Aumsbaugh, Lee's wife Annette Aumsbaugh, Pat Hatcher, Executive Director of the Chamber, Paul Aumsbaugh, Tammy McQueen, and Sue Roman of Miller's Mertry Manor, (second row, left to right) Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; Greg Fahl, Orizon Real Estate; Owner Lee Aumsbaugh; Melinda Woll, Edwards Jones Investments; Cari Wells, First Source Bank.



September's Business of the Month: Simonson Estates Apartments

** If you would like to nominate a Chamber member as Business of the Month, please submit a short synopsis via fax (260.248.8162) or email (office@columbiacity.org).*



Press Release

Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Announces the New “**Chamber Bucks**”

We are truly excited and pleased to announce our new Chamber Gift Certificate program “**CHAMBER BUCKS**”. This shop local program will be managed in house and all funds will be held at Crossroads Bank. This program was designed to be user friendly for both the vendor and the buyer as they look for the perfect gift to buy for a special occasion.

Chamber Bucks may be purchased through the chamber office in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25. Orders can be placed in person or placed ahead of time by phone, fax or email or on-line. **Chamber Bucks** can be redeemed at any participating chamber member. Each certificate will come with a list of current chamber participants so shopping will be easy. Those wishing to purchase chamber Bucks may do so with cash, check or charge. A small handling fee will be applied to those using charge cards.

This Shop Local initiative is devised to help support and promote our community businesses. In the past several years we have managed to keep thousands of dollars in our community using a successful program like this.

Detailed information will be sent to all participating merchants of the program. This will allow them opportunity to know the program and assist them in redeeming **Chamber Bucks** in their business. The holiday season is fast approaching and we are excited the gift certificate program is ready for the shopping season. **Chamber Bucks** can be used to buy a gift, eat out, purchase gas, pay a bill, get groceries or many other services you might need.

Any questions about the program please feel free to contact the Chamber office at 260-248-8131.



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AK Cleaning cleans "your way" which makes it great for small or large jobs.
We offer affordable rates for weekly, bi-weekly, monthly and one-time cleanings.

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*Insured Commercial & Residential

*References Available

*260-248-1328

We welcome the opportunity to work for those who may need our services due to inability to clean their homes, while keeping their independence.

*Chamber Member discount available Commercial Cleaning only.

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So....when might that be ??????? Here's some suggestions:

Weddings
Bridal Brunches
Rehearsal Dinners
Anniversaries

Retirement Parties

Reunions
(family, school, military, job)

Company Holiday Gatherings

Graduations
Club Events

(card clubs, Sororities, philanthropic organizations, service clubs, literary, social)

Retreats

(business, training, church)

Political Gatherings

Church Events

Family Get-togethers

(birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, first communion)

Company Picnics

School Events

Sports Team Gatherings

Program Receptions

Business Meetings

(breakfast, lunch, dinner, hors d'oeuvres)

Cocktail Parties

Tea Parties

Holiday Events

Formal Dinner Parties

"Just-For-Fun" Theme Parties

(Western, Luau, Mexican, French, Southern, Nautical, Broadway/Movie, German, Sports, Race Day, Italian, Mardi Gras, Roman Toga, Mediterranean, Nifty Fifties, Retro 60's & 70's or anything else you think of !),

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Fall Open House
Clugston Senior
Apartments
108 S. Chauncey St.
October 24, 2009

10am-2pm

Join us for refreshments

Sign up for door prizes

Enjoy historic tours

Everyone welcome

Contact Tammy (260)244-7688

with any questions



Whitley County Salvation Army
"Impacting Whitley County, One Life at a Time"



Where Would **YOU** go if **YOU** needed Help?

- ✔ There are 8760 hours in a year...
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- ✔ Would YOU Give an Hour of your time, this Christmas?
- ✔ You've still got 878 left for YOU!
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- ✔ Your Friends?
- ✔ Your Co-Workers?
- ✔ Your Business?
- ✔ Help Us Make an Impact this Year!

Let's Join Together to See Those in Need Feel the Love of The Season!

Can't Ring a Bell This Year? How About Considering Helping in Other Important Ways...

- 🔔 Financial Donation
- 🔔 Hygiene Items To Help Keep Our Pantry Full.
- 🔔 Program Sponsors

For More Information Please contact Whitley County Salvation Army:
Pat Mossburg
260-248-1711
Email - Pat_Mossburg@usc.salvationarmy.org

"Doing The Most Good"