

Help For Tough Times

The following list of *free* or *inexpensive* community agencies was prepared by the Westchester Public Library and the Westchester Township Trustee's Office.

ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELING

ALICE'S HALFWAY HOUSE FOR WOMEN

606 Brown Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-7600

For women recovering from alcohol and substance abuse.

Fairhaven Baptist Church, 86 E. Oakhill Road, Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 926-6636

_Faith based Addiction Recovery Program: meets Fridays 7:00pm.

MORaine HOUSE (for men)

353 West Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9983

For men recovering from alcohol and substance abuse.

NA Hotline

Narcotics Anonymous Hotline (219) 793-6262

www.na.org to locate meeting

NORTHSHORE HEALTH ADDICTION CENTER

801 Broadway, Chesterton, IN 46304 (219) 763-8112 Ext. 4212 or 4201

18 years and up. Outpatient counseling

PORTER STARKE SERVICES, INC.

601 Wall Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 531-3500

3176 Lancer Street, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 762-9557

Chemical dependency & addiction treatment for adolescents and adults.

Crisis Care Recovery Center (219) 476-4522 or (210) 476-4676

PORTER COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

57 Michigan Avenue, Suite 203, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-0946

Prevention and intervention of substance abuse.

REFORMER'S UNANIMOUS

Emmanuel Baptist Church, 760 McCool Road, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 759-3317

-Bible based treatment for various addictions for adults. Meets Fridays 7:00 pm.

CAREER & GENERAL INFORMATION

GOODWILL STORE

2109 Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 548-1314

Job seeking assistance and online educational services.

NEO Neighbors' Educational Opportunities: Adult Education Classes

Monday & Wednesday 10:00am – 3:00pm In person free classes

- High school equivalency/GED classes
- Fast Track to HSE/GED classes
- Academic Skill building for college, career, or personal goals

Westchester Public Library, Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave.,
Chesterton, IN 46304

Registration required at: portal.neoadulted.org

For more information email: tvaltierra@neoadulted.org

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

2801 Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9621

Assistance in finding careers for people with disabilities from entry level to professional.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

954 Eastport Centre Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-0521

State agency that helps people with mental or physical disabilities find employment.

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thomas Branch, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-7696

Hageman Branch, 100 Francis Street, Porter, IN 46304, (219) 926-9080

Unlimited free resources, reference dept. & free online access at both locations.

WORKONE OFFICE PORTAGE

Ameriplex Comm. Park, 1575 Adler Circle, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 762-6592

(Full Service Office) To enroll for unemployment benefits as well as help with job seeking, improving skills, and creating resumes.

CHILD CARE

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF PORTER COUNTY

Admin. Office: 708 Evans Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-2182

Duneland Club, 521 W. 1100 N., Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-9770

After school programming & tutoring (K-12) (MAC Center)

CHILD CARE SERVICES AND REFERRALS

(800) 299-1627

State agency number to call for local referrals of child care.

DUNELAND FAMILY YMCA

215 Roosevelt Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-4204

Manages state aid for qualified parents through the CCDF Fund (Child Care Development Fund) in providing assistance for obtaining child care.

GEMINUS

8400 Louisiana St., Merrillville, IN 46410

Covers Porter County (219) 757-1800 or Operator (219) 757-2300

HeadStart, child care vouchers, and referrals

HELP ME GROW PORTER COUNTY

Let us connect you to the resources you need

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Prenatal Care
- Development Screening
- Home Visiting

payton.summers@helpmegrowpc.org

CLOTHING**ABLE LIGHT THRIFT SHOP**

50 Marks Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383 (219) 548-3931

CLOTHES N PRAYERS

786 Juniper Rd., Valparaiso (South haven) 46385

Open: Tuesday 10:00am-2:00pm & Thursday 6:00pm – 8:00pm

DRESSED FOR SCHOOL

653 Hayes Leonard Rd., Valparaiso, IN 46385 (219) 508-1014

A nonprofit organization that provides new clothing for elementary students in need throughout Porter County.

GOODWILL STORES

2109 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 548-1314

3822 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN (219)878-1935

5906 Lute Rd., Portage, IN 46368 (219) 763-9619

Affordable clothing, housewares, appliances and furniture.

NEW CREATION RESALE SHOP AND MEN'S CENTER

2102 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso (219) 286-7061

PORTAGE RESALE SHOP

6450 Evergreen Ave., Portage, 46368 (219) 764-3375

PRESBYTERIAN RESALE SHOP

7 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-4281

Affordable clothing and small household items. Will also accept certified voucher form

SAINT PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1855 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-0074

Free clothing (all ages) and small household items to qualified low-income participants.

THE SHOP AT VALPO FUMC – UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S RESALE SHOP

7 E. Chicago St., Valparaiso 46383 (219) 465-0207

EDUCATION

GEMINUS HEAD START XXI

1010 S. 5th Street, Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 983-3726

Preschool for low-income families.

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3100 Ivy Tech Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-8514

2-year degrees and certificate programs available.

Toll Free: 888-489-5463

NEIGHBORS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (NEO)

100 West Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN (219) 983-3726

NEW CREATION MEN'S CENTER

2202 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 548-3548

Monday thru Friday 8 am – 6 pm

Free online access available for job searching and/or education skills.

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

2801 Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9621

Various enrichment programs using computer technology, art, or community integration.

ENERGY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

(219) 886-3549

NIPSCO

800-464-7726

Call for a listing of assisting agencies available to help with your energy bill.

NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION

540 Fountain Dr., Crown Point, IN 46307 (219) 794-1829

Toll Free: 1-800-826-7871

PORTER COUNTY AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, 1005 Campbell Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9736

Aid in winter heating/summer cooling expenses for seniors, disabled and low-income.

SALVATION ARMY

799 Capitol Road, South Haven, IN 46385, (219) 762-9191

Rent and energy assistance to qualified persons.

FAMILY SERVICES & COUNSELING

THE CARING PLACE, INC.

3107 Cascade Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 477-4413

Emergency safe shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

24 hrs. crisis line (219) 464-2128 or Toll free: 1-800-933-0466

FAMILY HOUSE

610 Glendale Blvd., Valparaiso (219) 464-4160

Supervised visitation for non-custodial parents. Also provide a safe place parents to make exchanges.

FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU OF PORTER COUNTY

253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9585

Adolescence counseling only.

6469 Central Avenue, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 763-6623

Healthy Families for low-income families. Birth – 3 months no charge.

FOOD STAMPS, MEDICAID, AND TANF (Temporary Assistance For Needy Families

2602 E. Chicago St., Valparaiso 1-800-403-0864

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES (for Handicapped Children & Adults)

2801 Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 464-9621

Respite service for families and caregivers. See also Help Me Grow.

PORTER COUNTY DIVISION OF FAMILY RESOURCES

2602 E. Chicago St., Valparaiso 1-800-403-0864

SNAP, Medicaid and TANF

PORTER COUNTY PROSECUTORS (CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION)

157 S. Franklin St., Suite 100 Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 465-3405

Assists in establishment of collection of child support.

PORTER COUNTY VETERAN'S SERVICE

155 Indiana, Room 103, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 465-3587

Call this number to apply for veteran benefits. Also a satellite office in Portage

(219) 759-2328

PORTER STARKE SERVICES, INC.

601 Wall St. Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 531-3500

3176 Lancer St., Portage, IN 46368, (219) 762-9557

Individual/ family counseling, medication management for adolescents/families/groups.

ST. AGNES ADULT DAY SERVICE CENTER

1859 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 477-5433

Senior Adult Day Care.

FOOD

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST 791 Juniper St. South Haven

4th Fridays 5 p.m. to 7p.m. 928-0808

FAIRHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

86 E.Oak Hill Dr., Chesterton, IN 46304 (219) 926-6636

Food Bank open once a month on the 3rd Thursday 9-1pm

Dry goods only.

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, 155

Indiana Avenue Ave., Suite 301, Valparaiso, IN 46383 219-465-3555

email: kdavis@purdue.edu/ www.extension.purdue.edu/porter

Free information about foods and nutrition, including stretching dollars to last the whole month.

FOOD BANK OF NWI

See schedule at: <https://foodbanknwi.org>

FOOD STAMPS - DIVISION OF FAMILY RESOURCES

2600 Roosevelt Road, Suite 200-1, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (855) 673-0149

www.in.gov/fssa

Food stamp program for low-income households; Monday thru Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOOD PANTRY

2001 Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383, (219) 548-2800

Porter County Residents Only (limit twice in one month) Must be a tenant or client.

Tuesdays & Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm for qualified for participants only.

VNA PORTER COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

(219)462-5195

Serves hot, nutritious lunch and optional light supper to the homebound, elderly, and individuals with disabilities in Porter County.

SALAVATION ARMY

799 Capitol Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383 (219) 762 9191

Porter County Residents Only – must show ID

Bread available daily: Food Pantry open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 1-3pm.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

225 W. Lincoln, Chesterton, IN 46304 (219) 926-1476 or (219) 926-2498

Free community dinner, the second Sunday of the month from 3:30-5pm.

WESTCHESTER MEALS

For homebound and seniors; meals delivered on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

This is a community mission, operating out of St. John United Church and in cooperation with other churches. Nutritious meals delivered Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays in the morning. \$2/meal. To sign up, call (219) 926-1476 (Alice). 3:30-5pm.

WESTCHESTER NEIGHBORS FOOD PANTRY

801 Broadway, Chesterton, IN 46304

(219) 787-8475

www.westchesterneighborsfoodpantry.org

Open every other Tuesday from 9 am - 11 am to qualified participants.

WIC (Women, Infants & Children Program)

502 Wall St., Suite 102 Valparaiso, IN, 46383, (219) 464-9220

6339 Central Avenue, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 762-3185

Free supplemental food program for qualified participants. WIC.in gov.

SOUP KITCHENS

MONDAY: Chesterton United Methodist Church (Jacob's Table)

Corner of 2nd St. & Porter Avenue, Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-1478

Free community meal from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Every Friday of the month: St. Patrick Catholic Church (Table of Plenty) Chapel Hall, 638 N. Calumet Rd., Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-1282

Free community meal from 4:00- 5:30 pm.

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH St. John's United Church, 225 Lincoln, Chesterton, IN 46304. (219) 926-1476 (Alice)

Free community meal from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH (weather permitting)

Calumet Masonic Lodge #379, 902 West Lincoln Avenue, Chesterton, IN 46304

Begins at 4:30 p.m. then while supplies last.

Free chili-mac dinner

HEALTH

DUNELAND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

100 E. Beam St., Porter in the Porter United Methodist Church

(219) 926-1586 Open Monday – Thursday 9-1pm

Free rental of medical equipment for area residents.

HEALTHLINC (formerly Hilltop)

1001 North Sturdy Rd., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-7173

www.healthlincchc.org

Medical & dental services for low income, Medicaid, and no income clients.

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA of PORTER COUNTY

402 E. Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-6267

Open 9am-3pm

Emergency assistance program for treatment of mental illness; clearinghouse for mental health resources; open door social club for adults 18+.

NORTHSHORE HEALTH CENTER

801 Broadway Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 763-8112

Open 8am-6:30pm Pharmacy open 8:30-6:30

6050 Sterling Creek Rd., Portage 46368 (219) 763-8112

Discounted medical and dental services.

PORTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

155 Indiana Avenue, Suite 104, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 465-3525
3560 Willowcreek, Portage, IN 46368, (219) 759-8239
Vaccinations and health related services.

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF PORTER COUNTY

501 Marquette St., Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-5195
Nursing care home health aides, social services, rehabilitation services, and hospital care for all ages.

HOUSING

FIRST CONTACT

2702 E. Glendale Blvd. Valparaiso, IN 46383/ (219) 462-8332
Christian Resource & Referral Ministry.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

outreach@catholic-charities.org
940 Broadway Gary, IN 46402 (219) 886-3549
Rental and utility assistance.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES, INC

2001 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383, (219) 548-2800
Temporary housing for individuals and families.

HUD

1-800-622-4993
Homeless assistance program information available at this phone number.

NEW CREATION MEN'S CENTER

2102 Calumet, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 548-3548
Monday thru Friday 8 am - 5 pm
Shelter for homeless adult males sponsored by different area churches. Must have ID.

PCACS

1005 N, Campbell St., Valparaiso, IN 46385 (219) 464-9736
Section 8 housing vouchers.

LEGAL SERVICES

NWI Volunteer Lawyers

651 E. Third Street
Hobart, IN 46342
www.nwivolunteerlawyers.org
probono@hobartlaw/met/
(219) 945-1799

LIBRARY SERVICES

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY www.wpl.lib.in.us

Thomas Branch, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-7696

Hageman Branch, 100 Francis Ave., Porter, IN 46304, (219) 926-9080

Free Internet & Wi-Fi, Children & Family Programs, Books, Magazines, DVD's, ebooks, Audio Books, Music CD's, Toys, Board Games, Wii Games, Online Databases, Free Tax Help, Resume Resources, Meeting Rooms for non-profit groups, Free Computer Classes.

SENIORS

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1005 N. Campbell Street, Valparaiso, IN 46304, (219) 464-9736

Various programs including nutrition and Medicare counseling.

DUNELAND SENIORS

Meet at Hawthorne Community Building in Hawthorne Park, Porter on

Wednesdays from 11am-3pm

(219) 252-2178

TELEPHONE-FREE CELL PHONE

Free cell phone www.safelink.com

TRANSPORTATION

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

2801 Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN, 46383, (219) 464-9621

Demand Response Transportation as well as Transportation Services for persons with disabilities throughout Porter County and portions of Lake and LaPorte County.

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

1005 N. Campbell Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383, (219) 462-4302

Low-cost demand response transportation for seniors, disabled, and low income.

TRUSTEE HELP

Center Township	462-0810
Boone Township	996-7121
Jackson Township	926-8270
Liberty Township	242-8347
Pine Township	874-6531
Portage Township	762-1623
Westchester Township	926-1405
Michigan City	872-2181 (Coolspring Twp.)

UNITED WAY

Emergency Assistance Program

800-826-7871 or 219-464-3583

Information and referral services for Porter County residents.

NOTE: For a more complete listing of community resources, see the PORTER COUNTY RESOURCE DIRECTORY, which is available for use free-of-charge at both Westchester Public Library Branches and the United Way Office.*(updated 6/27/2022)*