CoAction

Report to the Community

"At CoAction, we believe that no matter what someone's 'hard' looks like, they deserve to be met with respect, with patience, and with care.

CoAction is a place people can call. A place where, no matter how hard life feels in that moment, someone will meet them and help them find their next step."

Jen Trowbridge

Chief Executive Officer,
CoAction

Impact at a Glance

38,930 individuals served

16,944 households supported
with more than 30% currently employed

1,618 clients are retired

34% of clients are under 18

*2025 data published in 2026

Nutrition & Wellness: More Than a Meal

A meal is rarely just a meal. It's the reason an older adult opens her door each morning. It's how a young mom learns what her toddler needs to grow strong. It's the warm room where neighbors trade stories before walking home. **In 2025, CoAction served food across Northwest Indiana — and along with it, served belonging, education, and a daily reminder that someone is paying attention.**

Sustaining Health Across Lifespan

149,436 home-delivered meals served to 6,216 participants

through community partnerships also provided daily connection, safety, and support to those who can't cook for themselves.

100,577 congregate meals enjoyed by 10,019 participants

in community settings to reduce social isolation and encourage a sense of belonging.

6,513 produce boxes provided

to older adults to help sustain healthy aging, resulting in improved health outcomes.

WIC: A Foundation for Families

30,929 clients supported

from pregnancy to 5 years old so they could have the best start to life with nutrition, education, and hope.

"WIC has been useful for me and my child, especially in helping them grow strong and healthy."

1,680 diapers distributed

so that families could have healthy, comfortable babies and afford their rent.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart and baby's! It is appreciated and comforting to know there is help and support! These diapers are a blessing!"

Financial Stability: Building Pathways to Self Sufficiency

For many of our neighbors, the gap between getting by and getting ahead is one missed paycheck, one broken-down car, or one heating bill in February. **CoAction meets people in those moments — and then keeps going, helping them save, file, plan, and build.** More than a third of the households we served this year include someone who's working. Poverty isn't a personality; for most, it's a moment. Our job is to make sure that moment doesn't define the rest of the story.

Energy Assistance Program

15,269 households received energy help

through EAP to keep the lights on, the laundry running, and homes warm through winter.

Matched Savings Program

46 clients are saving

toward a car, a home, education, or other life-changing assets — with every dollar matched 3x by CoAction.

Meet Joy. Through CoAction's Matched Savings Program, she bought a reliable car of her own, and unlocked a whole new set of opportunities. ***Scan to read her story.***

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

3,410 returns prepared

for free resulting in $3.1 million in refunds returned to families and the local economy.

61 volunteers gave 4,632 hours

to help neighbors, so they could keep what they earned.

Older Adults & Disabilities: Aging with Dignity

Aging is universal; the supports we get along the way are not. **In 2025, CoAction kept showing up for families navigating long-term care, veterans choosing how they want to be cared for, older adults who'd rather stay in the home they love, and kids who need a grandparent figure in the classroom.** We listened. We learned. We lead with love.

1,673 older adults and people with disabilities supported via case management to remain in their homes, instead of moving to a nursing facility.

27 veterans directed their own in-home care through our Veteran's Directed Care Program – choosing what they need, on their terms.

CoAction is the first and only certified Dementia Friendly Organization in the region.

For local families, that means trained staff, evidence-based programming, and a place where the diagnosis isn't where the story ends — it's where the support begins.

511 clients and caregivers attended our Memory Cafés and specialized Dementia Initiatives.

52 AmeriCorps seniors gave a remarkable 40,457 hours to supporting the community by building meaningful connections with schoolchildren and their peers while creating a welcoming, safe presence for individuals in need.

72 older adults received companionship and support through Senior Companions.

221 students received steady, intergenerational mentoring across spring and fall semesters through Foster Grandparents.

After 30 years as a beautician, a dementia diagnosis threatened Ms. Annie's sense of self. Our specialists provided a professional activity kit, allowing her to reconnect with her lifelong passion. ***Scan to read her story.***

Housing: Expanding access to stability

Housing is the foundation everything else stands on. When the rent gets paid, kids stay in their schools, jobs stay in reach, and treatment plans stay on schedule. Without safe, stable housing, every other safety net frays. **In 2025, CoAction's commitment persisted: keeping people housed, getting people housed, and building what comes next.**

Affordable Housing & Rental Assistance

386 individuals placed in affordable rental units.

959 households supported with housing vouchers to maintain stable housing despite having insufficient income for rent.

Prevention & Rapid Response

45 households diverted from homelessness – 20 gained housing stability without ever entering a shelter.

102 households connected through Street Outreach for housing and essential supplies.

Meet Maria — a single mom of three, three months behind on rent, with the Sheriff already at the door. CoAction's Homelessness Prevention team had days to make it right. ***Scan to read her story.***

Coming next: Ivy Flats & The Branches

We're expanding our commitment to long-term security with two new developments. The Branches in Hobart will provide 36 units for adults 55+ living with a disability, while Ivy Flats in La Porte County will offer 16 units of permanent supportive housing. Both sites pair safe, modern homes with the essential services individuals and families need to thrive.

Two counties. Fifty-two neighbors. A future already taking shape.

CoAction is a catalyst for change in overcoming poverty.

The Power of 'Co-'

The "Co-" in CoAction isn't decorative — it's the work. We *co*ordinate across more than 30 programs so a family doesn't have to chase services. We *co*llaborate with neighbors and partners so help arrives quickly and stays connected. And we *co*innovate with the people we serve, because the experts on poverty are the ones living through it. That's how 38,930 stories moved forward in 2025 — together.

CoAction™

founded in 1965

CoAction.care
/CoAction.care
800-826-7871

To our incredible neighbors and businesses who stand with us, thank you. We're grateful you chose to act with us.

Starin Properties LLC • Travail With Us • Megent • Ameritas
First Financial • Geminus • Wintrust • Careforth
Retired Teachers of Lake County • Centier Bank • People's Bank
RE/MAX • The Grossbauer Group • HealthLinc • Cigna
CR Quality Services • Heart2Heart • Trust Tech
IceMiller • 1st Source Bank • Porter-Starke Services
Brian E Less Law Office

We'd love to see your name here next year. Support the businesses that support our mission, and consider joining them.

Donate Today!

Become a Sponsor