



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

January 2020

Executive Director's Letter

For me, 2019 was a mixed bag. And because of how 2019 started, this month is a tough one for me. It calls to mind one of the best and worst days of my life wrapped up in one.

The day of our Summit in 2019 (January 30) was a major life highlight. I'd been in the role of ED since March 2018 (after our 2018 conference), so it was my first Prosperity Indiana Summit as ED. And despite a polar vortex, the event was a great success. I had countless people tell me it was their favorite conference that we'd done. I even had people say that they'd been to a lot of conferences in their life, and that ours that day was the best. This felt great! Not because I'd done an amazing job, but because I had orchestrated an amazing team who did an amazing job. And I loved the energy created by so many of our members being in the same place. Because you guys are amazing as well. I couldn't have been more proud! And I was flying high from the positivity of the day.

Then we got the call. When your phone rings at 11 pm at night, you know it's not good. A pastor I didn't know was on the other end of the line, and he told me he had my sister and father sitting there with him. My 18 year old nephew had taken his life that day. He was gone, and our world would not be the same.

He had taken advantage of the rare occasion that he was alone - when he didn't have to pick his little brother up from his church group, and someone else had covered his shift at work. And he was alone. Desperate. And made a forever decision as a result of a temporary life bump in the road.

In a day that I was surrounded by people and loving it, he was isolating himself and deciding to leave us. I think about the what if's. If his work schedule hadn't changed. If he'd planned to pick up his brother as usual. If he'd had one more day to think it through. If he'd listened to more voices from those who love him. If he hadn't pushed people out of his day. If, if, if ... He might have made a different decision. He might still be here. But that didn't happen. Instead, he disengaged, and the world is worse for it.

Because people need people. We need each other to do great things together. We need each other to steer us away from pitfalls. We need each other to learn. We need each other because we need connection.

And so, it is with this notion that I'm bolstered by our association work in this new year. Our members learn with and from each other, they assemble to have a stronger voice together than alone, and they create community with people both similar and different from themselves. And this makes us better. It makes our communities better. It makes our world better.

So, thank you. Thank you for being part of this community. And in this new year with all of the

So, thank you. Thank you for being part of this community. And in this new year with all of the aspirations it holds, I encourage you to stay connected and form deeper bonds this year than you have ever before. So, [renew your membership](#) if you haven't renewed, [register for the Summit](#) if you haven't registered, and then please be present when we come together this year in a way that you haven't before. Because we need you. And you need us. We need each other. Because together, we can learn more and get bigger things done.

I also hope you can celebrate with my family this new year - that we not only experienced this major loss in 2019, but we also grew. In November, we welcomed a daughter, Harper Reese, into the Love family. And so, inviting you to share in our joy, please find a couple of family photos that make me smile. I hope it will do the same for you!



Happy New Year! I hope to see your membership renewed by the end of this month and you engaged at our Summit in February!

And as always, thank you for being a Piece of the PI Network!

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Jessica Love



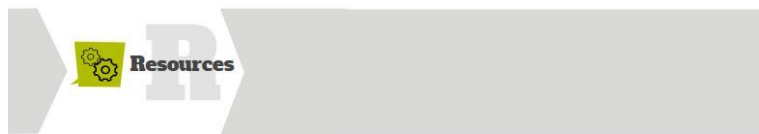
Executive Director

This month's Piece of the PI: ENGAGEMENT



We provide platforms for peer-to-peer learning and support.

Join us at the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit for a day packed full of opportunities to engage with peers in the field!



Member-Exclusive Resources

Did you know that there is a library of resources on a variety of community economic development topics available exclusively to Prosperity Indiana members? Simply [log in to your Prosperity Indiana account](#) and navigate to the Member Portal to access the Resource Library and the Webinar Library.



Renew Your Membership Today!

If you haven't already, don't forget to renew your Prosperity Indiana membership for 2020! Members get discounted rates on all Prosperity Indiana training and technical assistance, regular policy updates and action alerts, exclusive access to the Member Portal where you can find resources on a variety of topics, and [much more](#). Don't delay! Membership benefits expire on February 1.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don't Forget to Register for the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit!

The theme this year is 20/20: Seeing Opportunity Through the Lens of Values with sessions focused on opportunities in asset building, affordable housing, and inclusive development.

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REGISTER HERE

Group hotel rate now available! [Click for details.](#)



The 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit is presented by:



Members Build Support for Critical Priorities on Statehouse Day

Another Statehouse Day is on the books and the 2020 short session of the Indiana General Assembly speeding along! This week, members walked the halls and advocated for critical policy priorities that impact their communities and clients. Legislators engaged in great conversations about the bills most important to our efforts and why it is critical state legislators take action to increase renter protections and reduce evictions, implement consumer protections to combat predatory lending, and increase access to and the supply of affordable housing. [Click here to learn about our top priorities and the bills we are tracking this session.](#)



Opportunity Zone Summit Tract

The [2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit](#) on February 18 will include a tract of sessions centered around Opportunity Zones and inclusive development strategies. The Opportunity Investment Consortium's training and implementation partners have assembled panels of developers, investors, and other experts who will discuss successful projects and how to use the incentive to benefit your community! [Register for the Summit here.](#)



Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition

In 2019, Prosperity Indiana was endorsed as the official Indiana state partner for the national Opportunity Starts at Home campaign. The goal of the [Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition](#) (OSAH-IN) is to achieve ambitious increases in affordable housing - through existing and new infrastructure - and direct support to organizations supporting those who are unstably housed or homeless. The OSAH-IN will also seek to expand voucher supports that fund deeply targeted housing assistance for extremely low-income households, including vulnerable populations, such as youth, seniors and those with disabilities. To find out how to join the alliance, contact OSAH@prosperityindiana.org.



Upcoming Events

[January 23: Partnering with Healthcare to Deliver Social Determinants of Health \(Webinar\)](#)

[January 29: IPA Day at the Statehouse \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[February 11-13: Facilitative Leadership Workshop \(New Harmony\)](#)

[March 9-11: Foundations on the Hill 2020 \(Washington, D.C.\)](#)

[March 10-11: National Walking Summit \(St. Louis, MO\)](#)

[April 1: Workshop - Succession Planning Isn't Just for Retirement Anymore \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[April 9: FHCCI's 8th Annual Fair Housing Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[April 14-17: Preserving Historic Places Conference \(South Bend\)](#)

[April 16: Love Thy Neighborhood Awards Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[May 27-29: CSH Summit 2020 \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

[June 2-4: Philanthropy Leads - IPA Conference & 30th Anniversary Celebration \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 2-6: 57th IMCL Conference \(Carmel\)](#)

Social Media Recap

[Not saying goodbye, but see you later to Kathleen Lara. Having been with PI since December 2010 \(starting as Member Services Manager\), she has especially helped shape the organization's reputation and brand at the statehouse and in DC as PI Policy Director over the past 5 years. She, along with her gift of storytelling and her commitment to the cause, will be missed! \(Also joining us for lunch today is baby Harper, the newest addition to the Love family. Harper says our next policy director has big shoes to fill.\)](#)

[Members have started to gather for our 2020 Statehouse Day! Will we see you today?](#)

[Pop up planning meetings around this morning for tomorrow's \(1/14\) Statehouse Day and next month's Summit \(2/18\). Don't miss out! Stop by tomorrow afternoon and/or register today. \[prosperityindiana.org/Events\]\(http://prosperityindiana.org/Events\)](#)

[@brianneDMR #DYK that 76% of the public says it's harder today to find stable housing compared to previous generations? Ask what would the candidates do to address this issue as president? #DemDebates #OurHomesOurVotes2020 #OpportunityStartsatHome](#)

[@abbydphillip #DYK that 8 in 10 people in the U.S. think the pres. & Congress should take major action to make housing more affordable for low-income households? Ask what would the candidates do as president? #DemDebates #OurHomesOurVotes2020 #OpportunityStartsatHome](#)

[@wolfblitzer #DYK that 60% of people in the U.S. say housing affordability is a serious problem in the area where they live? Ask what would the candidates do about it as president? #DemDebates #OurHomesOurVotes2020 #OpportunityStartsatHome](#)

[Prosperity Indiana's @KatLaraIN talks issues with housing instability in this @Indiana_Lawyer article. Join us at Statehouse Day next week where we'll be discussing housing issues and other priorities important to our members!](#)

[We are thrilled to announce the nominees for the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Annual Awards! Winners will be recognized at the #PISummit2020 on February 18, 2020.](#)

[Happy Holidays from the Prosperity Indiana team! We wish you peace and prosperity in the New Year.](#)

Piece of the PI Sponsored by:



News from the Field

FHCCI Releases Report on Indiana Fair Housing Complaints

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) published [The State of Fair Housing in Indiana Report](#) to share their analysis of the government data and key demographics regarding fair housing complaint filing in Indiana. In the report, the FHCCI also makes several recommendations for future action.

CreatINg Places Launches Year 4

The [CreatINg Places](#) place-based crowdfunding grant program from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) in conjunction with Patronicity has been approved for its fourth year of funding. Through CreatINg Places, IHCDA provides [matching grants](#) between \$5,000 and \$50,000 for projects such as plazas, trails and playscapes.

Quick Impact Placebased Grant

OCRA and the Indiana Arts Commission are now accepting applications for [Quick Impact Placebased Grants](#). These matching grants are designed to fund transformational projects that spark community-wide conversations and creativity.

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We'll share your stories!

If you have a success story, an upcoming event, or a job opening, please let us know! Prosperity Indiana is seeking guest bloggers and success stories from our membership to broadcast across the network. Send your stories to info@prosperityindiana.org.

[Visit our blog for more of the latest community economic development news in Indiana.](#)

Connect with us

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