

Forty Years! by Amy Rich



First there were conversations late at night that envisioned a different world—a better world filled with God’s justice for the poor and marginalized. The conversations continued until

the decision was made to put theory into action in a struggling neighborhood in a modestly-sized city.

In 1977, three couples and their four children took a leap of faith. They left the jobs and homes that they had and moved to Evansville, Indiana. They bought houses all within a block of each other. They worshiped together in their front rooms, met their neighbors, and planted gardens. They created a Covenant to bind themselves together and to set a vision for their activities.

They called themselves “Patchwork Central” to represent the multifaceted, many-dimensional personalities represented. Others joined the original three families. There were weddings and new babies. The group put down roots, first in a house in the neighborhood and then in the former Washington Avenue Temple building. They called this big, old building that was full of possibilities “The Meetinghouse.”



They fought for their neighborhood’s school, park, and pool. They raised their voices to protest utility rate increases that would hurt those living on low incomes. They baked bread, then turned this baking into a means through which to employ their neighbors. They provided medical care to some who needed it. They fed those who were hungry, provided housing for those who needed it, and nurtured children seeking care.

There were struggles: the massive fire that destroyed The Meetinghouse, scattering Patchwork’s programming across the city for three years while they rebuilt;

adjustments as Patchwork’s founders moved on to other endeavors one by one; changes to the organization’s management structure; deaths.



At times, some observed that the group was involved in as many ministries as there were stars in the heavens on a clear night. That the group should narrow its focus. And yet there was always space for someone with an idea and a passion to see that idea implemented and fruitful. Always, all kinds of people were welcomed.

And here we are today, celebrating forty years. The organization continues to grow and change. It is an accomplishment that we are proud of. While the Patchwork Community still gathers on Sunday evenings for worship and we are reliant on volunteers to get things done, now we have nine staff members and many programs that have outlasted their originators. Our neighbors see us and trust us as a neighborhood institution. Generations have found respect, support, assistance, and learning here.

We are still part of our neighborhood. The majority of our staff and key volunteers live within a mile of our building. Those who don’t live nearby know multiple people who do. This still lends something special to the way Patchwork operates. This is our neighborhood. It’s not a place that we drive across town to get to every morning and drive away from at the end of the day. It’s not a place we come to only to provide a service or set up a program. We see our neighbor’s struggles and they are our own. We are part of this neighborhood together.

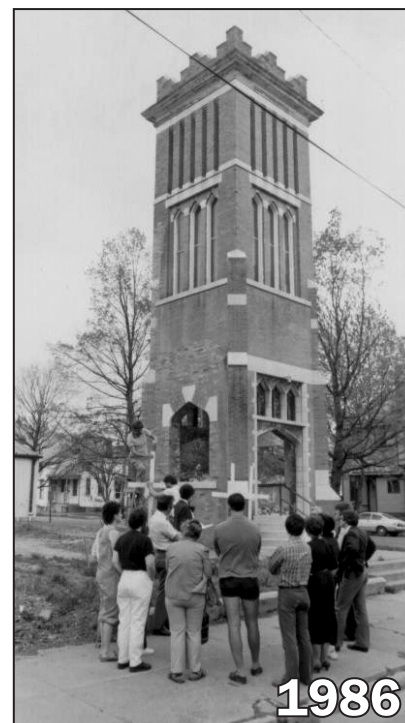


From the Beginning...

1977 - 1987

“Patchwork is a community of worship and service.”

“We wanted to live in a neighborhood and work on issues of urban life in a city where change could happen.”



“The fire was a rallying point for Patchwork.”

1987 - 1997

“For twenty years, people at Patchwork Central have felt called to this place.”

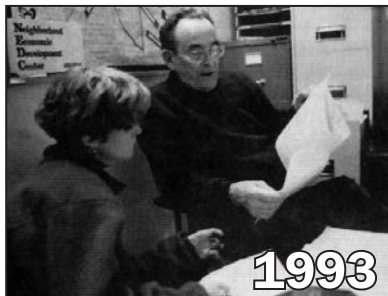


1988



1990

“Patchwork is the embodiment of mindful spirits caring for the needs of their fellow human beings.”



1993



1988



1991



1994



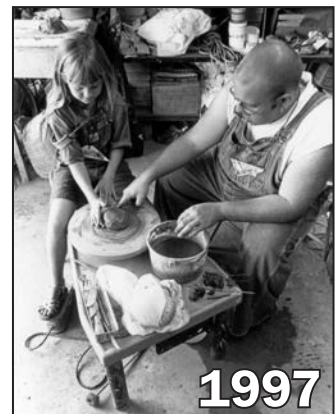
1989



1994



1987



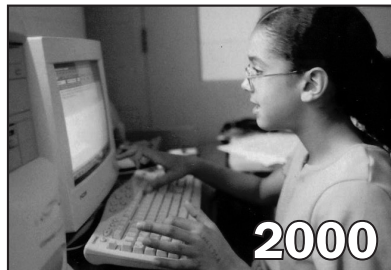
1997

“Patchwork Central is making a difference in the world.”

~ Carl, Judy and Rachel Sandlin

1997 - 2007

"Patchwork is a bridge that provides a place of common learning, sharing and celebration."

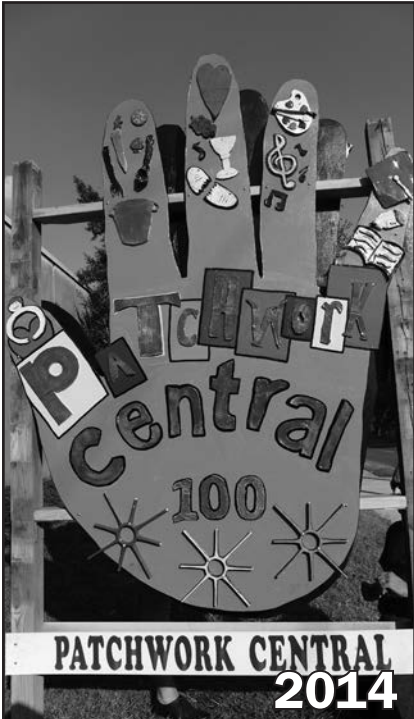


"Together we make a patchwork— an elegant patchwork of God's grace."

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
~Margaret Mead*

2007 - 2017

■■■ *"Hospitality is a vital part of the message we extend to our neighbors: We are Here, We Care and All are Welcome."*



"People of all backgrounds, colors, ages, social classes and talents come through this small building."



"Patchwork is a motley quilt, made with cloth from all different kinds of life stories."

- 
- 1977** — The Doyles, the Amersons and the Kimbroughs move to Evansville and create Patchwork Central.
 - 1978** — Purchase of the “Patchwork House” at 431 Washington Ave. to become the center for Patchwork’s activities.
 - 1980** — Patchwork purchases the old synagogue at 100 Washington Ave. and moves offices and programming there, calling it “The Meetinghouse”.
 - 1981** — After school children’s program begins.
 - 1982** — Patchwork’s food pantry opens.
 - The Back Alley Bakery opens.
 - 1983** — Neighborhood Economic Development Center (NEDC) opens.
 - The Meetinghouse burns down in a five alarm fire on the day after Christmas.
 - 1984** — After initially relocating its programs to other spaces around town, Patchwork purchases the house at 116 Washington Ave., and the children’s program, food pantry, NEDC and Patchwork offices move in.
 - The Back Alley Bakery moves to a building at the corner of Washington and Kentucky.
 - 1986** — Construction is complete, and Patchwork moves into the new Meetinghouse.
 - 1988** — Patchwork’s Mennonite Voluntary Service unit is formed.
 - Summer children’s programs begin.
 - 1990** — Washington Avenue Healthcare Center opens at Patchwork.
 - 1991** — A structured tutoring program is added to the after school children’s program.
 - 1993** — Growing programs lead to a space crunch in the Meetinghouse.
 - 1994** — Music program is added to after school activities.
 - First trip to El Salvador is taken in conjunction with Companion Communities Development Alternatives (CoCoDA).
 - 1995** — The empty lot next to Patchwork’s parking lot is transformed into a garden.
 - Jane Vickers takes over leadership of the after school programs.
 - 1996** — First “Back to School Sale” is held.
 - 1998** — Consultants work with Patchwork Community on strategic planning and changes to Patchwork’s management structure.
 - 2000** — The three staff members in the Leadership Team replace the volunteer Management Team as Patchwork moves a step closer to having an Executive Director.
 - Activities related to bicycle maintenance and building begin.
 - 2003** — The first Executive Director is hired.
 - Patchwork dedicates its teaching studio, built in place of an old garage.
 - 2004** — Calvin and Nelia Kimbrough, the last of the founders to work at Patchwork, move to Atlanta.
 - 2005** — The River City Food Co-op opens under Patchwork’s umbrella.
 - 2008** — John & Amy Rich begin as Co-Executive Directors, Patchwork’s fourth.
 - 2012** — Patchwork’s Tower is renovated.
 - 2015** — The Sozo Health Ministry begins.
 - Patchwork’s Bike ReCycle program re-starts with volunteer Pete Emery coordinating the Bike Shop.
 - 2017** — Patchwork reaches 40!

Join Us for Summer Celebrations

On Saturday, July 15 we will celebrate Patchwork milestones: Alan Winslow's 95th birthday and Patchwork Central's 40th anniversary. We'll host an ice cream social at Patchwork from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm.

All are invited! Visit with old friends, tell stories from back in the day, and bring your instrument or your singing voice so you can join in on the song circle.

As an anniversary or birthday gift, consider making a special donation to Patchwork of \$40, \$95, or \$135 (40+95) for all the years we're celebrating. Or just bring yourself. Time together is the biggest gift!



Helen Reed

We were saddened by the sudden death of Helen Skuggedal Reed in March, 2017. Helen had been an active member of Patchwork's Worship Community since the early 1990's. She brought us good music, dsafdsfadsfsa fsd f dsafdsa fs, and was the kind of person who cheerfully volunteered to wash dishes at our fundraisers.

E-Newsletter

More Stories! More Photos! More News!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter! You will receive email updates highlighting the most recent happenings at Patchwork.

Simply visit our website, www.Patchwork.org, and click the "join our mailing list" link!

Bequests

The next time you update your will, please consider adding Patchwork Central, Inc. as a beneficiary. As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, Patchwork is eligible to receive donations from bequests. Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing for our programming and contributing to our long-term stability.

Sunday Worship

The Patchwork Community meets for worship every Sunday 5:15 p.m. at the Meetinghouse, 100 Washington Avenue, followed by a covered dish supper.

All are welcome!

Patchwork Central, Inc.

100 Washington Ave.
Evansville, IN 47713-1521
(812) 424-2735
www.patchwork.org

-S-T-I-T-C-H-E-S- STAFF

Amy Rich Editor

Laura Weaver Proofreader

**Amy Rich &
Patchwork Archive** Photos

Kayla Seifert Layout

Patchwork Central Staff

John & Amy Rich Co-Executive Directors

Shawn Craddock Administrative

Dee Stein Assistants

Jane Case Vickers Director of Arts and
Education Programs

Dixie Wilsbacher Tutoring Coordinator

Karley Garrison Program Assistant

Robert Clegg Program Assistant

John Schaeffer Food Pantry Coordinator

Pete Emry Bike Shop Coordinator

Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelope provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.

PATCHWORK'S MISSION STATEMENT

Based in Evansville, Indiana, Patchwork Central, Inc. creates community and encourages spiritual and social growth
by offering hospitality,
by providing opportunities for learning,
by fostering creativity and involvement in the arts, and
by working toward a more peaceful and just world.



PATCHWORK CENTRAL

40th Year Anniversary Newsletter



Updated photos, useful information, newsletters, online giving, and more!
www.patchwork.org

**Patchwork
Central**
Creating Community
100 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47713-1521
www.patchwork.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Evansville, IN
Permit No. 2044
Return Service
Requested