

Erica Johnson (Max Rios), and Adam Johnson; and grandchildren Robin, Liam, and siblings Edward L. Johnson (Carol), Jean Webb, Tim Johnson (Tina), Hanson (Anita), and Maryel (Bob). She is preceded in death by her parents, sister Rita Wagner, and other-in-law Marvin Rios, and sister Kathy.

A visitation will be held Friday, September 1, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Depringhill Chapel, 85 Depringhill Drive, Terre Haute, Ind. Burial will be held Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 2222 East 3rd Street, Bloomington, Ind. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the church. Burial will be at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Bloomington. Condolences may be expressed to: info@tribstar.com

bullying and self harm. Rachel's Challenge is a nonprofit organization based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim of the Columbine school shooting in 1999.

One session was Tuesday. The remaining community programs will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the following locations:

■ Today, Wednesday, Aug. 30 - West Vigo High School auditorium.

■ Thursday - Honey Creek Middle School cafeteria.

The programs are open to the public.

The presentations look at Rachel's writings and how she lived her short life with kindness and compassion "and how she wanted others to create

a chain reaction and do the same," said Megan Kirk, VCSC Project Aware coordinator.

This week and next, programs also are taking place in all schools, with different programs for elementary, middle school and high school.

In the schools, "The message and conversation challenges students to do a number of things in order to help us reduce bullying, school discipline, school violence and also to prevent suicide," Kirk said.

The school programs look at how people treat each other and the



KIRK

Speakers are individuals from the Rachel's Challenge organization, and many of them have relationships and friendships with members of Rachel's family.

"We're excited to bring them to Vigo County to hopefully start a movement within our community and our schools," Kirk said.

While it's important to spread the message of Rachel's Challenge in the schools, "We know it goes beyond the four walls of each of our schools," Kirk said. "We'd love to see our community members invest in this movement with us."

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Thrive West Central awards more than \$952,000 to spur housing development

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT



Thrive West Central on Monday announced it has made \$952,500 in READI Grant awards that will help leverage \$25.7 million in private sector housing development.

This is part of Thrive's Homes for the Future program, the goal of which is to stimulate the production of quality, age-friendly homes throughout West Central Indiana.

This is the first round of the project, and seven projects were submitted. The awards totaling \$952,500 will help develop 130 new housing units throughout the West Central region by October 2025, according to a news release from Thrive.

The awards were:
 ■ Southard Homes LLC for The Southard Homes, Terre Haute, \$97,500. This project will develop 15 single-family homes retailing for around \$140,000 each.

■ Southard Homes LLC for Terre Vista proj-

ect, \$120,000. This project features the creation of ten larger, single-family homes retailing between \$370,000 and \$400,000 each.

■ Southard Homes LCC for Southard Acres West project, \$245,000. This is to build 17 single-family, detached-garage homes. These will retail for around \$225,000.

■ Emmert Group Properties for The Windbreaker Flats project, \$245,000. This project will develop 48 one- and two-bedroom apartments representing a \$3.82-million-dollar investment in Clay County.

■ New Directions Housing Corporation for The River Valley Apartments project, \$245,000. This project will bring 40 modern, age-friendly apartments to Terre Haute. This project is geared toward seniors and is located near Union Hospital. This project represents a \$12.3-mil-

lion-dollar investment in the community.

"Homes for the Future is the catalyst for an exciting new era of home development in our region,"

says Ryan Keller, executive director for Thrive.

"Each of these projects captures a much-needed segment of the market, and we envision a future where sustainable, age-friendly homes are the norm - providing an environment where our communities can thrive for decades to come."

Thrive will open the next round of the READI Homes for the Future funding on Sept. 1. A closing date is tentatively set for Oct. 11.

Potential applicants can visit Thrive's resource library to view housing studies, market research

and more on the Homes for the Future Program at www.thrivewestcentral.com/housing-hub.

The READI program is part of a \$500 million state effort that uses federal COVID-19 relief funds and is overseen by the Indiana Economic Development Corp.

The Wabash Valley RDA, which covers Vigo, Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Knox counties, was awarded \$20 million in READI funding in December 2021.

The RDA in June 2022 announced it would divide that \$20 million in READI grant funding among 23 projects in the Wabash Valley. All projects have until the end of 2024 to have money committed, with all READI funds to be spent by the end of 2026.

The Wabash River RDA's proposal was submitted under a regional umbrella made up of the Wabash River RDA, Thrive West Central, and West Central 2025.



KELLER

Walk to End Alzheimer's set for Sept. 23 at stadium

NEED A RIDE?

Thrive West Central provides no-cost (donation-based), year-round transportation services for individuals 60+ and disabled individuals. In

