



## **Mikayla Marazzi and the creation of "Who's Who in Muncie Neighborhoods"**



Mikayla Marazzi is a community development professional, and presently, she is the Development Director for Affordable Housing Community Development Corporation in Grant County. She has experience in grant writing, project/program development, business development, and event planning. Last year, she facilitated Community Pitch Night, a shark-tank style business competition in which over thirty businesses competed to win a free lease in downtown Marion, resulting in two newly launched business. She is a graduate of the International Economic Development Council's

Basic Economic Development Course, and a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University.

Originally from BC, Canada, Mikayla moved to Indiana to play collegiate tennis--and she never expected to stay in Indiana. However, slowly Indiana became a new sort of home to her. She came to love the Indiana community: full of good people, abundant opportunities, and resolve to make things better. Thus, after graduation Mikayla rerouted her plans to put down roots in Indiana--and has now called East Central Indiana home for eight years.

You can usually find Mikayla wandering (sometimes walking, sometimes running, sometimes biking) through the streets of Marion, peppering a friend with questions over a beer; drinking coffee at any time of day or night; joining a new community event or committee; or likely, eating tacos.

Mikayla is passionate about joining community, creating community, exploring community, and trying to innovate new pockets of community and facilitating connections amongst people.

Mikayla has joined Ball State's Office of Community Engagement to learn more about the intersection of higher education and community development and the role of research institutions in neighborhoods, main streets, local organizations, local government etc. Mikayla will be facilitating interviews with local neighborhood leaders to highlight new voices and stories across the Muncie community! Readers will learn who is behind the scenes fighting for change and making a big impact in their local neighborhood. These interviews will be published as the "Who's Who in Muncie Neighborhoods"...coming soon to websites, social media, journals, and newspapers near you!

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## Neighborhood Project Funding Available



The Riverside-Normal City neighborhood association was awarded \$500 in September to support their "Back Alley Beautification Contest", their annual tree planting, and to provide supplies for

general beautification efforts throughout the neighborhood. The Back Alley Beautification contest is designed to draw attention to the neighborhood’s alleys, which act as informal walkways connecting the neighborhood to Tuhey and Emerson parks, Ball State’s campus, the Village, and downtown Muncie. Neighborhood leaders hope that this competition will inspire residents to plant flowers, paint murals, and otherwise keep this area clean and tidy.

Riverside-Normal City was nominated for a Project of the Year award at the 2019 IDEA Conference for their inaugural tree planting event that saw over a dozen volunteers plant fourteen trees over a cold, wet weekend in October. The neighborhood is partnering again this year with the City of Muncie Urban Forestry Program to plant an additional 12 trees within the city medians along streets throughout the neighborhood. MAP funding is being utilized to rent an auger for the event and provide mulch for the trees.

Neighborhoods interested in applying for Neighborhood Project Funding can find more information on the [muncieneighborhoods.org](http://muncieneighborhoods.org) [Neighborhood Project Funding page](#). Funding for this program has been generously provided by the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County and the Ball Brothers Foundation.



**RNC**  
**Back Alley**  
**Makeover Contest**

Alleys can be seen as scary or off-limits, filled with trash and critters. But alleys are places of great possibility, spaces to build community and encourage active citizens to work together to tackle neighborhood problems. We want to improve the look of our neighborhood, reward your creativity in beautifying your back alleys and improve the environment.

**Before** **After**

FIRST PLACE PRIZE: \$75 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO AMAZIN' JOES  
SECOND PLACE PRIZE: \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO THE CUP  
THIRD PLACE PRIZE: \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO QUEER CHOCOLATIER

Post the before and after photos of your alley makeover on the Riverside Normal City Neighborhood Association Facebook page by October 1, 2020. Submissions will be judged by online voting & top three winners selected by the Board of the Riverside Normal City Neighborhood Association.

  
RIVERSIDE  
NORMAL CITY

<https://www.facebook.com/rncmuncie>



MEET OUR WEB OF SUPPORT  
AMBASSADOR,

# Aiesha!

"Everyone needs an anchor. Everyone needs someone who is pouring into them, whether that be through tangible or intangible things. Even the strongest people need anchors. They need to be held up and poured into as well."

-Aiesha, Allen, Elementary School Teacher



## What does the Web of Support mean to you?

"Learning about the Web of Support was very eye-opening. As a teacher, I've realized it is important to reach young kids and provide them with anchors at an early age. When going back to school this fall I will be making sure that I am making myself available to the young kids and being that support for them. Especially for the ones who do not have a strong support system at home."

-Aiesha, Allen, Elementary School Teacher



[Click here for more information about the Web of Support.](#)

## Neighborhood Highlight - Robinwood



Robinwood Neighborhood Association hasn't been able to meet as a group through out Covid-19 BUT that hasn't stopped them from recognizing the efforts of their neighbors. Yard of the Month is celebrated on Facebook and a sign posted in the winner's yard. This is Kim & Andy's yard. Fingers crossed, Robinwood is going to try and meet at the end of October.

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**MAP Board Member Spotlight:  
Missy Modesitt  
Executive Director, BY5**



**When did you join the MAP board?** I began serving on the MAP board in early 2020.

**Why do you work with MAP?** BY5 and it's mission to be the leading early childhood awareness organization in Muncie and Delaware County was born out of the original Muncie Action Plan. Our community leaders realize the importance of high quality child care during the first five years of life. It is important that we keep issues that face our families with young children at the forefront and by being a part of MAP, I believe I can do that.

**Favorite Travel Destination:** Anywhere that I can be with all of my kids and grandchild, this would include Holden Beach, North Carolina. I also love the Caribbean Islands.

*"I love Muncie because there is such a generous spirit here. We have so many foundations and nonprofits that give so much but we also have many community members who enjoy giving of their time, talent, and treasure."*

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## Coming Up In 2020

Muncie is starting to open back up! October 1, downtown will be hosting the Artswalk and Pumpkin Trail & Glow. Check out the Muncie Visitors Bureau [calendar](#) for open venues as well as virtual exploring and entertainment. Or check out their Facebook page: [Muncie Visitors Bureau](#).

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**Be sure to check your neighborhoods Facebook page for updates about this months meeting.**

**MAP Neighborhood  
Meetings:**

*Updated for 2020*

**2020 MAP BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**Donna Browne**, Grant Writer, Center for Energy Research|Education|Service, Ball State

**MAP Neighborhood Presidents' Council:**

6 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Ivy Tech, 345 S High Street, Room F261

**Anthony-Northside:** 6:30pm, 4th Thursday of odd-numbered months, Community Fellowship Church

**Blaine/Southeast:** 6pm, 2nd Tuesday, serenity Club, 1218 S Brotherton Street

**Cowing Park:** 6pm, 3rd Thursday, Garden of Gethsemane Methodist Church

**Forest Park:** 6:30pm, 3rd Friday, Delaware County Senior Center

**Gilbert:** 7pm, 2nd Monday, Inside Out, 300 N. Madison Street

**Haltman Village (representing Haltman, Norwood, and Vienna Woods):** 7pm, last Monday of every other month, Haltman Village Baptist Church

**Industry:** 6pm, 4th Thursday, Price Hall, 704 S. Madison Street

**Ludingwood:** 2pm, 3rd Saturday, Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson St.

**McKinley:** 6pm, 4th Thursday, Muncie Central High School

**Minnetrista/Central:** 6pm, 2nd Thursday, Catina Room at the Minnetrista Cultural Center

**Northview:** 6pm, 3rd Monday, Northview Elementary, 807 W. Yale Avenue

**Old West End:** 6:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams Street

**Riverside/Normal City:** 7pm, 4th Wednesday, Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House, 1400 W. University Ave.

University

**Gretchen Cheesman**, City of Muncie Community Development

**Cornelius Dollison**, Whitely Community Council

**William Hughes**, Attorney, Beasley & Gilkison (**Treasurer**)

**Mitch Isaacs**, Executive Director, Shafer Leadership Academy

**Roni Johnson**, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, retired

**Wayne Johnson**, Ivy Tech Community College

**Jenni Marsh**, President/CEO, United Way of Muncie and Delaware County (**President**)

**Missy Modesitt**, Delaware County BY5 Early Childhood Initiative, Inc.

**Marta Moody**, Director, Muncie-Delaware County-Metropolitan Plan Commission

**Steve Moore**, First Merchants Bank

**Chuck Reynolds**, Muncie Community Schools

**Alison Robbins**, Aspect 6 Creative

**Kelly Shrock**, President, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County (**Vice President**)

**Susan Volbrecht**, Coldwell Banker the Real Estate Group

**Heather Williams**, Program Manager, Building Better Neighborhoods (**Secretary**)

**South Central:** 6pm, 4th Monday, Bridges  
Community Services, 318 W. 8th Street

**Southside:** 5:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Southside  
Middle School cafeteria

**Thomas Park/Avondale:** 6pm, 3rd  
Wednesday, Ross Community Center, 1110 W.  
10th Street

**University Heights:** 6:30pm, 2nd Thursday  
in March, June, September and December,  
Riverside Baptist Church

**Western Woods:** 6pm, 1st Wednesday,  
Westview Elementary

**Whitely:** 5:30pm, 2nd Monday, Muncie Area  
Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin Street



### **Task Force 1: Linking Learning, Health, and Prosperity**

MAP TF1/BY5 has increased resources and program to underserved families by over 60% and has increased access to high quality child care in Muncie/Delaware County by 22% since 2013.



### **Task Force 2: Fostering Collaboration**

MAP TF2's efforts have created and sustained over 27 active neighborhood associations in the community of Muncie.





### **Task Force 3: Strengthening Pride and Image**

MAP TF3 has worked together with communications partners to create Mymuncie.org, signage and delivering the good news of the opportunities Muncie has to offer.



### **Task Force 4: Creating Attractive and Desirable Places**

MAP TF4 has strengthened Muncie's resiliency and code enforcement, helped to create the Muncie Cultural Train, Canan Commons and continues to work with Downtown Development to attract new business.



### **Task Force 5: Managing Community Resources**

MAP TF5 has worked with Delaware County GIS department and helped to create Bike Muncie, Scout Muncie, has overseen Tuhey Pool Watterpark's transformation, reservoir projects, among other land resource improvements.



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