



For Immediate Release
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***Annual Blueprint Celebration to Honor
Community's Work to End Homelessness
Mayor Greg Ballard and Former Mayor Bart Peterson to accept awards; formerly
homeless individual recognized***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (Coalition) will host its annual Blueprint Celebration *Presented by Jim and Sharon O'Brien* to recognize individuals and organizations that are making significant progress in the implementation of the community's *Blueprint to End Homelessness (Blueprint)*.

The celebration will take place **today, Wednesday, September 16th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the Hilton Indianapolis, 120 West Market Street, Indianapolis.

The celebration will champion the community's progress on the groundbreaking *Blueprint*. The program will feature Indiana Pacers Head Coach Jim O'Brien and his wife Sharon, presenters of the celebration, as Masters of Ceremonies. For the past two years Jim has provided a motivational send off for Indy Homeless Connect volunteers and in 2009, Sharon served as Co-Chair of the event.

"Our community made significant strides to lessen the surge of homelessness in the last year. Sharon and I are proud to be a part of the results and the celebration," said CHIP Board Member Jim O'Brien. "We look forward to continuing our work to help end homelessness because it is unacceptable to us that anyone should be without a home."

The celebration will also highlight the annual awards ceremony which will honor individuals and organizations who have stood out in the local fight to end homelessness. Both Mayor Greg Ballard and former Mayor Bart Peterson will receive awards for their personal leadership towards ending homelessness. Ballard will receive the Homelessness Prevention Award for his work focusing on services to those re-entering the community from the criminal justice system. Peterson will receive the William A. Crawford Public Service Award for his leadership implementing the strategies outlined in the *Blueprint*.

Kayona Bingham, a formerly homeless individual will receive an award to recognize her achievements of overcoming substantial obstacles and going on to make outstanding contributions to our community. Bingham, a mother of three, who is now an employment coordinator with Fresh Start of Indiana, will share her story at the celebration.

Additional Blueprint Champion awards are given to individuals and community organizations that have promoted the goals set forth in the *Blueprint* through extraordinary efforts in the specific areas indicated. These award winners were nominated by their peers in the community as exemplary champions of the *Blueprint*. The award areas include youth awareness, education and service.

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The annual Blueprint Celebration is made possible by the generosity of several local sponsors. Presenting level sponsors include: Jim and Sharon O'Brien. Platinum level sponsors include: The Indiana Pacers. Gold Level sponsors include: The Indianapolis Colts. Silver level sponsors include: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Indiana University Office of the Chancellor, Ann and Bill Moreau, and Second Presbyterian Church.

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The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention is a nonprofit agency created in 1996 to advocate for homeless and near-homeless people in Indianapolis and to help organizations that serve them work together more effectively. CHIP led the Blueprint to End Homelessness planning effort and now serves as the lead agency to mobilize the community to work together to implement its recommendations.