



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Community Celebrates Significant Contributions to Ending Homelessness

Individual Who Experienced Homelessness Recognized For Giving Back

INDIANAPOLIS – The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (Coalition) hosts the annual Blueprint Celebration to recognize organizations and individuals who are making significant contributions to the *Blueprint to End Homelessness (Blueprint)*, the city's 10-year strategic plan to end homelessness. **The Blueprint Celebration will take place at the Indiana Landmarks Center on Thursday, October 6, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

Lindsey Bacon, who experienced homelessness, will be recognized for overcoming substantial obstacles and going on to make outstanding contributions to our community. Bacon experienced homelessness for a year and a half after serving in the Air Force. He connected with supportive services that helped him get back on his feet, and since then, he has given back to people with similar stories through his positions as general manager at Chick-fil-A, CHIP Advocacy Council member and FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Marion County Local Board member.

"The Blueprint Celebration gives us the opportunity to go beyond the programs and numbers and meet someone who has lived without stable housing, made their way back and contributed to the city," said Timothy C. Joyce, executive director of the Coalition. "We can see the progress toward our goal of making housing a reality for all of our neighbors and their families in very tangible ways, but the Celebration also reminds us that we have a long road ahead of us as family homelessness has risen in recent years and 5,500 – 7,500 people a year experience homelessness in Indianapolis."

KeyBank, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, Indianapolis Community Court under the leadership of Judge David Certo and Indianapolis Community Court volunteer Rosemary Stockdale, HVAF of Indiana, Inc. and Lindsey Bacon are among those being honored for their progressive efforts in implementing the *Blueprint*.

Featured speaker, Anne Ryder, believes everyone has a story. As a TV journalist, writer and inspirational speaker, she has been capturing people's stories for more than 25 years. She has earned 15 regional Emmy Awards and five national honors, including two Edward R. Murrow Awards for her work. Ryder writes monthly for the NBC affiliate in Indianapolis.

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The annual Blueprint Celebration is made possible by the generosity of local sponsors. Gold sponsors include: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indianapolis Power & Light Company and The Samaritan Foundation. Silver Sponsors include: Barnes & Thornburg, Dauby O'Connor Zaleski, Duke Energy Foundation, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Ann and Bill Moreau, Pyxso Analytics and Linda and Todd Sears. To attend this special community event, visit www.chipindy.org and purchase tickets online.

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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.

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