



For immediate release

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HOMELESS COALITION ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) is pleased to announce the appointment of its board of directors' executive committee. John Willey will serve as chair, William Taft as vice-chair, Todd Sears as treasurer, and Christine Shepard as secretary. The executive committee was elected by 17 community leaders who represent a broad spectrum of interests on the board of directors and in the community.

John Willey joined WellPoint, Inc. in 1997 and currently serves as director of government relations with the primary responsibility of lobbying on Indiana State executive and regulatory issues. Prior to joining WellPoint, Inc. Willey spent over two years as executive director of the Indiana Republican Party. Prior to his work at the state party, he spent over two years at the Indiana House of Representatives' Republican Caucus, serving as a legislative assistant. Willey graduated from Ball State University with a degree in Political Science.

Willey has served on the board of directors of the Public Affairs Council in Washington D.C., the Indiana Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and currently serves on the board of directors of the American Lung Association, Indiana Chapter. Willey was recently selected as a participant for the 33rd class of the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series and for fourteen years, he has been a volunteer with Media Operations at the RCA Tennis Championships in Indianapolis and is himself an avid tennis player.

William Taft is the Indianapolis executive director for Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a national intermediary supporting grass-roots community development organizations with loans, grants, technical assistance, training, and policy support. From 1991-2005 Taft served as the president of Southeast Neighborhood Development, a community development corporation serving the Fountain Square neighborhood where he directed the investment of more than \$33 million into 600 homes, the revitalization of its historic commercial district using an arts-based strategy, the construction of several community centers and parks, and the creation of a neighborhood charter school. He also worked as a Main Street manager, and in several Federal departments.

Taft has an undergraduate degree from Cedarville University and a masters degree from Ball State University. He resides with his family in downtown Indianapolis.

Todd Sears is the CFO of Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc. in Indianapolis and is currently a member of the senior management team. Sears was previously the executive vice president of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP) from 2000-2005 where he oversaw the single-family lending, multi-family lending, and research departments. His work included

completion of approximately \$25 million of mortgage sales/securitizations, creation of two bank-financed loan pools (each over \$20 million), and reinstating research as a formal component of INHP's activities. Sears' career also includes working in state government at the Indiana Housing Finance Authority (IHFA, now known as the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority) and at the Indiana State Board of Tax Commissioners.

Sears received a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the Honors Program of the Business School at Indiana University and graduated with Distinction. In 2002, he received a Masters in Economics from Indiana University (at I.U.P.U.I.). In 2008, Sears earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation from the CFA Institute and he is now the treasurer for the CFA Society of Indianapolis.

Christine Shepard serves as a project manager and consultant with Planning Plus, LLC. She has assisted with the design and facilitation of strategic, annual, and operational planning sessions for both for-profit and non-profit organizations, including board development and committee structure. Prior to her consulting work, Shepard was the marketing coordinator for the HardingPoorman Group. Through her work with the HardingPoorman Group, she directed company contributions to several organizations such as CHIP, The United Way, St. Mary's Child Center, HVAF of Indiana, Inc., The Julian Center, and many others.

Shepard received her Bachelor of Science in Graphics Art Management with a minor in Business Administration from Ball State University, graduating with honors in her department.

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CHIP is the lead entity in implementing Indianapolis' Blueprint to End Homelessness and serves as the umbrella agency for those agencies working together to combat homelessness. CHIP's goal is to establish a well-coordinated and effective continuum of assistance and housing options that help vulnerable people avoid or escape homelessness