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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TOTAL CIVIC RESPONSE: LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS  
HOMELESSNESS IN INDY**

Panel discussion, awards presentation at CHIP's annual fundraiser on September 18th

INDIANAPOLIS (September 15, 2014) The solution to addressing homelessness in Indy is a *Total Civic Response*, according to Christy Shepard, CHIP's Executive Director.

At the 2014 CHIP Celebration, the organization's annual fundraiser, local thought leaders will participate in a **panel discussion** on what a Total Civic Response – utilizing all people, all sectors, to create a unified response to homelessness - could mean for our community.

The panel represents an array of perspectives and includes a private funder, service provider, elected official and business owner, and attorney who is a combat veteran and who has experienced homelessness in Indianapolis.

Executive Director Shepard explains the importance of having this conversation at this time: "Federal funding and philanthropy have long supported communities' response to homelessness and access to housing. Although federal funding has become harder to secure, our community of philanthropic citizens still want to make a difference. It is critical for us to leverage resources and develop a united and total civic response to homelessness. Lives are depending on it."

The Celebration will also feature **awards presentations** to local champions including **James Dewar**, a formerly homeless individual who has overcome mental health and addiction issues and is now leading a hopeful, productive life. Not only is he working through difficult issues and overcoming barriers in his own life, James is also giving back and helping others live better lives. In addition to doing light maintenance work at his apartment complex and in the community garden, James goes out with outreach teams to encourage other to seek services. His accomplishments were only possible through a collaborative effort of many organizations and sectors coming together in response to his needs.

The Celebration will culminate with an exclusive look at a new community awareness campaign set to launch this fall. In conjunction with Downtown Indy, CHIP intends to raise awareness and funds for homeless services through this multi-channel awareness and action campaign. For more information about the event or CHIP, visit [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org), or call 317-630-0853.

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### **Details about the 2014 CHIP Celebration:**

**Title:** CHIP 2014 Celebration: *Total Civic Response: Leveraging Partnerships to Address Homelessness in Indy*

**What:** Awards presentation, panel discussion, launch of new homeless awareness campaign; program immediately followed by a networking reception

**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2014

**Time:** 3:30 Registration; 4:00 Program

**Place:** NCAA Christine Grant Ballroom (700 West Washington St)

**Cost:** \$50 per individual; \$100 Advocate Level Ticket (will receive recognition at event and in written materials)

**FMI:** [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org)

**For tickets:** <http://www.chipindy.org/celebration-tickets-and-sponsorship/>

### **Total Civic Response Panelists**

- **Laura Alvarado**, Vice President of Program and Community Outreach, School on Wheels
- **John Barth**, At-Large Member of the City-County Council, Vice President of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs at Managed Health Services
- **Christie Gillespie**, Director of Agency Services, United Way of Central Indiana
- **Mark Nicholson**, Attorney-at-Law in private practice, combat veteran and formerly experienced homelessness in Indianapolis

The panel will be moderated by **Bob Schultz** of Downtown Indy. Audience members will be invited to submit questions to panelists.

### **2014 Celebration Honorees**

CHIP will also celebrate **2014 Celebration Honorees** who have made an impact on homelessness in Indianapolis:

- D. William Moreau Jr., First Annual Moreau Homeless Advocate Award, Presented by Carlos May, Senior Executive Policy Advisor to Mayor Ballard
- Foster Bogard, Joe Fahy Caring For Our Neighborhood Award
- Hannah R. Stohry, Joe Fahy Fellowship, 2014-2015 recipient
- Professional Blended Street Outreach Team, Collaboration Award
- James Dewar, Diamond Award given to formerly homeless individual

### **About the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)**

CHIP helps the community of Indianapolis plan how to end homelessness:

- We connect people and organizations to data and research.
- We are the lead planning body for the Continuum of Care.
- We ensure various voices are heard as we advocate for funding and other support of housing and services.

CHIP mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness intervention and prevention in the greater Indianapolis area. To learn more visit [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org), or call us at 317-630-0853.