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Local REALTORS® Invest \$100,000 in Community Development in 2010

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Indianapolis — This week, 12 local economic and community development organizations received an early holiday present – funding from the REALTOR® Community Investment Initiative (RCII). In its fifth giving cycle, RCII – a community-building initiative of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR) – funneled another \$100,000 into local communities across central Indiana, bringing its total regional investment since its inception to \$460,000.

Fifty-eight applications were received from front-line service organizations in 10 central Indiana counties, with more than \$1.5 million dollars in aid requested. Recipients of these funds represent a wide range of organizations that work for the betterment of quality of life in central Indiana, fueling local improvement efforts through marketing, planning, economic development and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Recipients and their projects include:

Boone County Economic Development Corporation will use its \$7,000 investment to design a fully functional, dynamic Web site.

Brown County Chamber of Commerce was awarded \$15,000 to procure seed money to stimulate Brown County recreation tourism business over a 25-mile stretch of Salt Creek, and to establish a revenue source for future creek clean-ups.

Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce received \$6,000 to upgrade its Web site to better serve needs of community and its members.

Hamilton County Alliance was granted \$2,200 to identify county strengths for target sectors and development of electronic outreach program geared to specific geographies.

Hancock Economic Development Council will apply its \$5,300 investment toward the purchase and implementation of business retention and expansion software that will aid in identifying expansion opportunities, companies at risk and provide assistance to companies with date sensitive data.

HARMONI received \$5,000 to advance preparation of a comprehensive Midtown Master Plan and implementation strategy that focuses on commercial corridors and specific site development opportunities.

Indianapolis Economic Development Inc. was gifted \$10,000 to improve the organization's brand and marketing efforts and identify national prospects and tools that will assist in business and employment recruitment and retention.

Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP) has earmarked its \$10,000 award to help families prepare for long-term, successful homeownership by attending, completing and graduating from one or more classes offered through the INHP Home Buyer Education Program.

The Indy Partnership received \$20,000 for the production and distribution of video stories that visually and artistically promote the counties in the greater Indianapolis region, along with the region itself.

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., was given \$5,000 in funding for NeighborWoods, a community-wide effort to plant 100,000 trees in 10 years, improving neighborhoods and enhancing our local environment. Specifically, trees will be planted on the Near Eastside in support of the 2,012 Trees by 2012 in time for the Super Bowl.

Rebuilding the Wall, Inc., received \$4,500 for THRIVE, a 24-36 month case management and neighborhood support partnership that empowers very low and low income families to become homeowners.

Workforce, Inc., will employ its \$10,000 investment for the creation of a comprehensive recycling center that will employ formerly incarcerated individuals and helps them successfully re-enter the workforce.

"It's important for us as REALTORS® to continue to support the organizations working to improve life in central Indiana – even though philanthropic donations are down across the board," said Steve Sullivan, CEO of MIBOR. "We feel it's more important than ever to maintain our investments in the community and to ultimately make the region a better place for businesses and homeowners alike."

For more information, visit www.MIBOR.com/rcij.

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The Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® is the professional association representing central Indiana's REALTORS®. MIBOR serves the needs of more than 6,500 members in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan and Shelby counties. MIBOR also supplies BLC® listing cooperative service to REALTORS® in Decatur, Madison and Putnam counties.