

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Indiana Association of Cities and Towns

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“The Official Voice of Municipal Government in Indiana”

CITY OF MUNCIE WINS STATEWIDE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Muncie, IN – The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) announced today that the city of Muncie’s Millennium Place has been awarded a 2006 IACT Annual Award for Community Achievement.

The Muncie Housing Authority rebuilt one of the city's oldest neighborhoods through a massive community revitalization and housing project known as Millennium Place. The project was funded through a HOPE VI grant, rental housing tax credits and federal Community Development and HOME funds. These funds have been combined with private investments to create a more than \$40 million dollar investment that is transforming a nearly 70-year-old government housing complex and blighted area into a vibrant neighborhood with mixed-income housing, a senior center, grocery store, community center and parks. Ball State University has been one of many partners in the project.

IACT President Bart Peterson, Mayor of Indianapolis, applauded the city's accomplishment by saying, "Millennium Place is reshaping a challenged neighborhood into a revitalized community that will have a far reaching impact in the city of Muncie."

IACI Executive Director Matthew C. Greller said, "The years of hard work and dedication shown by those involved with Millennium Place will be reflected in a thriving neighborhood that residents will be proud to call home."

In its 30th year, the IACT Annual Awards program recognizes communities and individuals in municipal government for excellence and outstanding achievement. A twelve-member panel of qualified judges selected this year's winners from a competitive field of nominees from around the state. The 2006 IACT Annual Awards will be presented during the IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition on Monday, Sept. 25, at the Westin's Grand IV Ballroom at noon.

IACT is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government. IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country at 115 years old, has 458 cities and towns as members, and is a member of the National League of Cities. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

The IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition is open to media who may attend workshops, the Awards Luncheon, opening and closing business sessions, the Annual Banquet and all other open events. Please request a media credential at the IACT registration desk in the Westin's Grand Pre-Function Foyer. Media must be credentialed before entering conference events.

2006 IACT Annual Awards Winners:

Community Achievement, over 25,000
City of Muncie, Millennium Place

Community Achievement, 13,000 – 25,000
City of Crown Point, Façade Grant Program

Community Achievement, 5,000 – 13,000
City of Portland, Community Resource Center

Community Achievement, under 5,000
Town of Fremont, Collaborative Building Projects

Local Government Cooperation Award
City of Delphi and Towns of Flora and Burlington, Carroll Communities Recycling Cooperative

Larry A. Conrad Civic Service Award
Announced at conference

Russell G. Lloyd Distinguished Service Award
Announced at conference

Financial Management Award
Announced at conference

Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award
Announced at conference

Conference Facts:

2006 IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition

Sept. 24 – 27, 2006

Indiana Convention Center and Westin Hotel

(50 South Capitol Ave)

Attendance: 850 – 1,200 (pending final registration count)

Further information: www.citiesandtowns.org

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