PRESS RELEASE
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MAYOR HOSTS 2008 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Greg Ballard recognized 21 outstanding volunteers at the 2008 Community Service Awards held at the Indiana Historical Society. The Mayor's Community Service Awards were created to recognize Indianapolis citizens for their volunteer contributions and commitments to community service.

“Today, we honored our city’s volunteers for their servant leadership and exceptional commitment to our community,” said Mayor Ballard. “These volunteers have dedicated years of hard work and service to helping their neighbors. Our city is better because of them, and it was an honor to be able to offer, on behalf of all citizens of Indianapolis, our deepest gratitude.”

Twenty-one volunteers from all areas of Indianapolis and Marion County were recognized at the event. A brick will be engraved with each recipient’s name and placed at the Mayor's Volunteer Plaza at the 11th Street Admiral Spruance basin on the Canal.

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2008 Award Recipients

Scott Armstrong

Mr. Scott Armstrong is the three-term President of the Community Heights Neighborhood Organization, three-term President of the IPS School #2 Parent Teacher Student Association, and a representative on the Steering Team for the INSAI School Improvement Plan for IPS School #88. Scott’s volunteering philosophy is to make Indianapolis a better city to raise his two sons.

Marvin Bardo

Mr. Marvin Bardo has worked with The Youth Video Institute of the Indiana Black Expo, Pike, Washington, and Warren Township Schools in Indianapolis, the Knights of Peter Claver and most notably Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Marvin leads by example to the students and peers he works with. He says, “You don’t have to be the smartest or the most athletic, but you do have to be the most determined.

Paul “Ponytail” Cauley

Mr. Paul Cauley is a Vietnam Veteran who has spent time and effort recognizing his fellow veterans. He approached Mayor Ballard to organize an event honoring those who had served our country in the Vietnam War. Through the leadership of Paul Cauley, the Indianapolis Community came together to give Vietnam Veterans and their families a well-deserved “Welcome Home”.

Ms. Julie Davis

Julie Davis has a long career dedicated to philanthropy and volunteerism in the Indianapolis Community. Julie has worked with numerous nonprofit organizations for over 18 years, devoting 80-100 hours a month and serving over 30 charities and nonprofit organizations throughout Indianapolis. She says, “It is exciting and rewarding to improve the lives of others around you.”

Kurt Flock

Mr. Kurt Flock is an Old Northside resident and former president of the Old Northside Neighborhood Association. He is responsible for the trimming and clean-up of the trees and shrubs in the area. He works with the City of Indianapolis as well as Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to promote his clean-up efforts. Kurt organized residents and funding for the clean-up and spent tireless hours to help beautify his neighborhood.

Jack Hensley

Mr. Jack Hensley devotes countless hours of service each month to the Indianapolis Community. Jack is a volunteer for a few Indianapolis Schools as well as Raymond Park Neighborhood Association, the Veterans Memorial, his church, and Indiana Special Olympics. His volunteer work creates strong connections because he is a constant, on-going, part of all that he has created through his service.
La Keisha Jackson

Ms. La Keisha Jackson has been a volunteer for many community committees and boards which include the Indiana Neighborhood Network Consortium, Eastside Neighborhood and Community Team Committee, and the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Community. She believes that in order to lead, one must serve first, which speaks of her undying commitment to her community and those who live there.

Pastor Bill Jenkins

Pastor Bill Jenkins is the founder and senior pastor of Church of ACTS in Indianapolis and is a leading voice in the city. He works alongside city officials to implement lasting and effective changes to our city. Pastor Jenkins is involved in the Re-entry Program, as well as the Peace in the Streets initiative. He was recently featured on the front cover of Indiana Minority Business Magazine for his outstanding efforts in our community.

Joe Komenda

Mr. Joe Komenda is well-known around Indianapolis as “Mr. Volunteer”. His full time job for over 40 years has been to enrich the lives of Hoosiers he touches. Joe moved to Indianapolis in 1967 and has been an active member of the community organizations and has continued to make Indianapolis a wonderful place to live, work, play, worship, and learn. His daily mission has been to “rise to the occasion, to make our world a much better place”.

Tammy Leadbetter

Tammy Leadbetter’s efforts have transformed the eastside neighborhood of Irvington Terrace. Tammy formed a crime watch in 2005 which has expanded to include the entire neighborhood of 420 homes. The Irvington Terrace crime watch has become one of the most active in the city. She has also worked with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to establish an annual Neighborhood Cleanup Day.

Karen Mitchell

After working as a Corrections Officer, Karen Mitchell became a member of the Board of Directors for the Grandville Co-operative on the near Southeast side of Indianapolis. She began her campaign to enrich and transform the lives of the community and it has been very successful. She is always available for any community member who needs guidance, comforting or counseling. And she always says, “We’ve come a long way, but I’m not finished yet!”

David Scott

Over the past 15 years, David Scott has proved to be an outstanding, reliable, versatile, and compassionate volunteer of the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis. He is an active member of the Disaster Public Affairs Team and an Emergency Response Vehicle driver. David Scott is an exceptional volunteer with a cool temperament and kind heart.

Greg Schenkel

Greg will not be with us today. However, Mr. Schenkel has been volunteering many hours for civic and professional activities including United Way of Central Indiana and the Great Indianapolis
Progress Committee. He states, “I view volunteerism as very important to further our quality of life and our community.”

**Scott Splichal**

Scott Splichal is a volunteer for the Indy Sports Corp and has been volunteering for the Indy 500 Festival Mini Marathon for more than 25 years. He is also a hospice volunteer and a member of the Perry Township Kiwanis Club and has served in various club leadership positions. Scott says he feels fortunate for all he has and the ability to give back to others.

**Theresa Swenson**

Theresa Swenson has, for 60 years, worked to improve the quality of life in Indianapolis. She has been a part of many volunteer activities throughout her life including as a volunteer at the Indianapolis Museum of Art for over 20 years and her 4,000 hours of service to the Crossroads Guild. In honor of Theresa’s 90th Birthday this past August, her children established the Theresa M. Swenson Children’s Fund at Easter Seals Crossroads. This fund will provide equipment for children with disabilities, which as been a focal point of her volunteering.

**Marge Tarplee**

Marge has spent over 50 years as a dedicated volunteer to the City of Indianapolis. Her efforts include the success of the $40 million campaign for Methodist Hospital, the first woman to chair the 500 Festival board, and she established the Indianapolis Downtown Inc’s beautification committee and a fund to help beauty grow. Her leadership, passion, commitment and generosity have helped make Indianapolis a better place for its citizens.

**Richard Turner**

Mr. Richard Turner has been a volunteer reservist with the Indianapolis-Marion County Emergency Management Agency for eight years. His genuine and steadfast commitment to EMA has been an invaluable asset to meeting the needs of the Indianapolis-Marion County Community. He is a selfless leader and indispensable team member with a strong sense of service to his fellow neighbor, and he continues to volunteer daily with little to no recognition.

**Alma Trawick**

Alma has a mission to make her neighborhood, the Phoenix/Meadows Neighborhood a better, safer place so that more people like her will not only want to stay in the community, but be drawn to moving there from other parts of the city. She serves as president of the Keystone-Millersville Neighborhood Association and works to bring her neighbors together to better the community. She has a love for her neighborhood and a true servant’s heart.

**Reverend Malachi Walker**

Reverend Walker founded a youth organization called “Young Men, Inc.” for males between seven and seventeen. He wanted to decrease violence by teaching these young boys discipline, accountability, and spirituality. The program has grown from 25 young men to approximately 75. Revered Walker truly believes that it takes a community to raise a child, so he is determined to do his part as one in the community.
**Sahara Williams**

Sahara established and currently serves as the Director of the Desert Moon Youth Equestrian Services. The mission is to expose youth to the equestrian industry and to use equines to teach life skills and character building to youth. The program is unique because it brings a typically rural activity to the inner city. To date, nearly 2500 Marion County youth have been exposed to these incredible animals through the programs at Desert Moon Ranch.

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**Timothy Worthington**

Tim was on the board of the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association for 25 years and helped to bring the National FFA Convention to Indianapolis. He was on the Capital Improvement Board and was instrumental in helping to build Conseco Fieldhouse and Victory Field. Tim has also served on the 500 Festival Board for 11 years.

Tim has volunteered as a key leader in major projects that have changed the landscape of Circle City, yet always makes time for simple, loving acts for those in need.

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