**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MAYOR BALLARD Recognizes Indianapolis Residents**  
**with the 2010 Mayor’s Community Service Awards**

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard recognized 11 outstanding volunteers at the 2010 Mayor’s Community Service Awards this afternoon at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center. The Mayor’s Community Service Awards were created to highlight and honor Indianapolis residents who continually give their time to strengthening their communities through various volunteer contributions and service projects.

“Our city is widely recognized for being a compassionate and friendly community that looks out for its neighbors,” Mayor Ballard said. “These 11 individuals represent the very best that the City of Indianapolis offers in the area of volunteerism and community service. It is a privilege for me to honor them for their exemplary volunteer contribution and dedication to bettering their neighborhoods and ultimately our city.”

The 18th annual awards ceremony recognized 11 public servants from throughout Indianapolis and Marion County. Following tradition, a brick will be engraved with each recipient’s name and placed at the Mayor’s Volunteer Plaza at the 11th Street Canal basin.

**2010 Award Recipients:**

**Susan Blair**  
Susan Blair serves as President of Pike Township's Residents' Association (PTRA) in which she dedicates her personal time and energy to improving the neighborhoods in Pike Township. Some of her many responsibilities include: meeting with City-County Council members and representing PTRA at Marion County Association of Neighborhoods, at Traders Point Association of Neighborhoods meetings, at Crooked Creek Community Council sessions, and Hamilton and Hendricks County meetings. Susan is an excellent example of what it means to be a devoted and active member of her community. By working directly with prominent community leaders, as well as concerned residents, she is able to bridge the gap between issues and action. In 2009, she was appointed to the IMPD-Community Task Force Committee by Mayor Ballard.

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Ray Brinkmeyer  In 2006, Ray Brinkmeyer founded Friends of Skiles Test Nature Park and has been its president for the past four years. With his organization, Ray has worked to beautify the once abandoned 85-acre Skiles Nature Park. Through his efforts, the Nature Park is frequented by bicyclists, hikers and runners. Currently, Ray is working on another project for the park, Test Fest, where local artists have the opportunity to display artwork made from materials found in the park. Since 2005, Ray has served on the board for the Binford Redevelopment & Growth, Inc. (BRAG), and collaborates with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. Additionally, he frequently works with Skiles Test Elementary School, teaching students about the importance of the local park.

Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield  Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield gives her time and talents to the Martin Luther King Community Center by serving on its Board of Directors. In this role, she leads bi-monthly presentations for the Kinship Care Support Group Program, providing assistance to caregivers. The program is aimed at helping women learn skills and gain knowledge about how to strengthen themselves as females and caretakers. Program participants are caregivers to a relative child, full-time, without the assistance of the child’s parent. The Rev. Byfield also volunteers her time and services to the job-readiness and life skills program. She improves the lives of individuals who come to the community center seeking services to better themselves and those around them. The impact she has on her community is invaluable and instrumental, continuously motivating and educating those she serves.

Reverend Melvin J. Jackson  Reverend Melvin J. Jackson, a lifetime member of the NAACP and recipient of the Mozel Sanders Foundation “Above and Beyond” award, has worked tirelessly in communities around Indianapolis. He has worked with the Indianapolis Housing Agency Board of Commissioners, The Midtown Advisory Board, Project Safe Neighborhood, Baptist Minister’s Foresight Alliance of Indianapolis & Vicinity and the Dawn Project. In recent years, the Rev. Jackson has volunteered with Westside Communities Inc., where he works with the homeless and unemployed.

Edwin Locke  Edwin Locke regularly dedicates his time to the Eagle Creek Woods Home Owners Association (ECWHOA) and the Eagle Creek Residents Alliance. He has been elected to the ECWHOA Board every year since 1997, initially as the Treasurer and currently as its Director, in which he works with nine other homeowners associations on community improvement projects. Additionally, he has coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers, City-County Councilor Janice McHenry, the Department of Public Works, the Marion County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to fix community drainage issues. Edwin donates his time at Eagle Creek Park, where he has improved the landscape of the park and also volunteers to lead nature hikes for schools groups. For more than a decade he has volunteered at the Indiana State Museum and was a gallery host for the Lincoln Exhibit.

Sarah S. Lugar  For more than 40 years, Sarah S. Lugar has been a dedicated and active volunteer in Indianapolis. She began her work with the Junior League of Indianapolis in 1966. With this non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Indianapolis, she served as Treasurer and Vice-President, as well as a member of the Endowment Board. She also has served as an officer on Parent-Teacher boards for elementary, middle and high schools. She is a Life Member and has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Program Chair of Day Nursery Association, and was President and Secretary for its Foundation board. She also has been the Administrative Assistant and Board Secretary for the National Junior Tennis League. She has provided leadership and guidance to a multitude of other organizations including: the Noble School, WFYI, Indy’s Child Magazine, Museum of Miniature Houses, YWCA, Propylaeum Historic Foundation Board, Teacher’s Treasures, Progressive Club, the Benjamin Harrison Home, Women in Neighborhood Service, First Baptist Church, Nora Little League, and Young Presidents Organization.

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Devin E. Miller  Devin Miller is a unique teenager who has dedicated much of his free time to volunteerism. During the past four years he has been a volunteer juror for Teen Court, a program that offers alternative methods of rehabilitation and restitution for youth who commit non-violent crimes. Additionally, Devin has volunteered at the Indianapolis Public Library Summer Reading Program, where he reads to local children in an effort to improve literacy in Marion County. During flu season, Devin works with the Visiting Nurses’ Services to provide flu shots to senior citizens in Marion County. Through the StarFish Initiative, a non-profit dedicated to financially assisting under-privileged students, he has raised money for Dollars For Scholars. Devin also has volunteered with the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana University/Clarian Hospital and the Indianapolis Animal Shelter.

Jeff Miller  For the past 10 years, Jeff Miller has tirelessly worked on neighborhood and community issues around Indianapolis. Currently, he volunteers on the board of the Fletcher Place Neighborhood, where he has served as President and Secretary. For the past three years Jeff has been the president of the Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis, a coalition of Downtown neighborhoods committed to discussing failures and sharing successes. He has also served on the Southeast Neighborhood Development for the past four years, winning the “Board Member of the Year Award” in 2008. Collaborating with Great Indy Neighborhoods, IUPUI, and the Department of Public Works, Jeff helped develop an infrastructure assessment tool which has since been used to assess more than 1,600 local city blocks. Last year Jeff was asked to serve on the Mayor’s RebuildIndy committee as an advisor to engage neighborhoods and provide infrastructural analysis.

Tanya Stuart Overdorf  Tanya Stuart Overdorf has served as the President, Community Vice President, Financial Vice President and Sustainer Representative for the Junior League of Indianapolis. Under her leadership there, she created the role of Fund Development VP, resulting in increased financial stability for the organization. Through her 25 years of community service, Tanya has been successful in promoting diversity, collaboration, and multigenerational approaches to organizations; strengthening relationships and the organizations she serves, and improving the City of Indianapolis and Marion County. She has been exemplary in providing insight and depth of understanding in the needs and issues by reviewing and approving grant requests to deserving organizations. Tanya continues to provide her abilities to chair a board, fundraiser, committee or program to generate success and develop greater impact to the Indianapolis community.

Linda Profitt  Linda Profitt founded the Global Peace Initiative, a project dedicated to planting Peace Gardens that provide fresh, wholesome vegetables, free of charge, to food pantries, as well as to anyone who is hungry. She promotes and creates peace in her community by employing and directing hundreds of youth and adult volunteers each season. In the month of May alone, Linda and her volunteers generated close to 7,300 hours – a value of more than $138,600. Within the three Peace Gardens initiatives of Crooked Creek Peace Garden, Light of the World Peace Garden, and Manual High School Peace Garden, her team has contributed more than 6,700 hours within a six-week period, totaling more than $85,000 in monetary value.

Jim Walsh  In 1993, Jim Walsh began working on a community project with the aspiration to develop a radio station that would increase the lack of music diversity in the community and be “a voice for many voices.” His dream came to fruition in June 2009 and has since become a popular and heavily enjoyed not-for-profit radio station. Operated by volunteers, friends, and supporters of Jim’s dream, 91.9 WITT works to “promote understanding and respect among individuals of diverse cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles.” Jim devotes an average of 120 hours per month to the radio station, highlighting county events, holding fundraising concerts with local musicians, airing live studio performances, and playing an endless variety of music genres. He creates about 22 hours of programming a day that he fills with music, commentary, and current news, fulfilling the mission of being a community radio station.

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