

Destination: Home 3rd Anniversary Celebration, Thursday, December 13th
10 am – Central Library, Browning Rooms A & B

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

Good morning, my name is Rodney Stockment. I am the Community Services Manager at the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. I am joined by Lori Phillips, the Associate Director of the Indiana office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. It is our honor to be invited to join you to celebrate the third anniversary of Destination: Home.

On behalf of IHCD Executive Director Sherry Seiwert, I am here today to offer ***IHCD's continued endorsement and support of Destination: Home***. We, like you in this room, believe that ending homelessness is an achievable goal. No Hoosier man, woman or child should be forced to spend *even* a single night on the street, in a shelter, in a park, in a car or in an abandoned building. Together we can end homelessness by providing the poorest and most vulnerable members of our state with the housing, services and income supports they need to stay housed and live as independently as possible.

To achieve this goal, IHCD embraces and will find the means to help implement local plans to end homelessness across the state. We understand that we must span all interested constituent groups: state agencies, affordable housing providers, service providers, foundations, the business community, local governments, the faith-based community and private citizens. *No one* group in this effort is ***more important than another***, and an ***enduring commitment by everyone*** in this room will be necessary for Destination: Home to succeed.

IHCD is here to partner with the Evansville community on its journey. We will, with our friends at CSH, use ***the best data, provide you with the best technical assistance and training and continue to search across the nation for the best evidenced based practices to bring to Indiana.***

In the end, however, we know that Destination: Home will succeed because the ***collective capacity of our compassion and our will to do what is right is larger than the challenges of homelessness.***

Distinguished Hoosier Award

In your community, one individual stands out by providing you with extraordinary leadership. She has articulated a vision that homelessness can be ended. Luzada, in her own quiet style, has brought together a wide continuum of people and organizations to develop a plan. ***She has been your Paul Revere*** spreading the word that there are evidence-based, cost effective practices, that can work together to put an end to homelessness. She has brought your community to a tipping point.

I come here amazed at what the Evansville community has accomplished to date and ***what you are poised to achieve in the coming years*** – everyone in this room is helping transform the homeless assistance system ***from a system that warehouses people to a system that provides long-term solutions to homelessness.*** As Luzada has often told me, ***we should be going about the work that will put us out of a job!!!***

If Luzada would please come forward, IHCD would like to take this opportunity to ***honor Luzada by presenting her with a Distinguished Hoosier award.***

The Distinguished Hoosier Award is one of the highest honors bestowed upon Indiana citizens by the governor. This award is given to Indiana residents in honor of and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to their neighbors and state.

In recognition of ***Luzada's tireless efforts towards the implementation of the strategies in Destination: Home, and her relentless fight to provide decent affordable housing and services to homeless individuals and families,*** it is my honor, on behalf of Gov. Mitch Daniels, to present Luzada Hayes the Distinguished Hoosier Award, which reads:

- **WHEREAS**, some individuals distinguish themselves through significant contributions to their communities; and
- **WHEREAS**, the qualities and characteristics of such individuals reflect the best of the great State of Indiana; and
- **WHEREAS**, the actions of these individuals endear them in the hearts and minds of all Hoosiers; and
- **WHEREAS**, Indiana treasures individuals who give their time and talents out of an abiding sense of responsibility, commitment and concern for others; and
- **WHEREAS**, Luzada Hayes is such an individual who has earned the respect and admiration of Hoosiers across the state and is worthy to join the ranks of these honorees;
- **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby declare and appoint **Luzada Hayes** a Distinguished Hoosier. Congratulations Luzada!