



With these Updates, we hope to encourage you with news of local progress on the strategies of the ten-year plan, educate you with information re: projects, services, homeless issues, and inspire you with news of other activities around the country!

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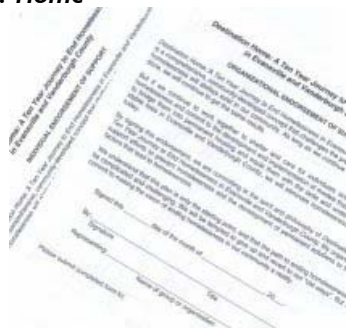
## Champions for Ending Homelessness

### New Commitments to the Spirit & Philosophy of *Destination: Home*

We welcome recent organizational and elected official endorsements from these "Champions" for ending homelessness:

- Christian Fellowship Church
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Evansville Christian Life Center
- Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
- Eric Ellsperman, Newburgh Town Council-District 2

We continue to actively solicit endorsements, both from organizations and individuals. Contact 428-3246 x 28 to request an endorsement form. Please send in your endorsement if you support the spirit and philosophy of *Destination: Home*.



## Commission on Homelessness celebrates with the community

The joint city-county Commission on Homelessness oversees the implementation of *Destination: Home*. On Thurs., Dec. 13, the Commission hosted the 3rd Anniversary Celebration of *Destination: Home*. Following a welcome & statement of purpose by Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, current Commission chair,

Commissioner Troy Tornatta invited to the podium a variety of speakers who addressed committee progress and *Destination: Home* strategies in action through various projects and collaborators. Visit [www.destination-home.info](http://www.destination-home.info) download reports from the speakers as well as a list of 2007 accomplishments, or contact us for copies.

her with a Distinguished Honorary Award from Governor Mitch Daniels. Lori Phillips-Steele, Deputy Director with the Indiana office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, commended the work of *Destination: Home* and presented her signed endorsement.

2008 priority strategies were also outlined and appreciation expressed for the many, many organizations, businesses, and individuals who have and continue to be keys to ending homelessness in our community.

Endorsements from elected officials and state level organizations were noted. New endorsements were received. Rodney Stockment, Community Services Manager with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, affirmed IHEDA's continued support of our city-county's work and surprised Luzada Hayes by presenting

The next Commission on Homelessness meeting will be Thurs., Jan. 10, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor's conference room.



## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### Commission on Homelessness

Thu., Jan. 10 at 10:00 am, Mayor's conference room, Civic Center

### Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana

Fri., Jan. 11 at 12:00 noon at YWCA, 118 Vine St.

### Meet Your Legislators

Sat., Jan. 12 at 9:30 a.m., Browning Room, Central Library, downtown Evansville

### Bridges Out of Poverty - Day 1 training

Wed. Jan. 23, call 428-3246 x 30 for a registration form or download from [www.destination-home.info/bridges.htm](http://www.destination-home.info/bridges.htm)

### Meet Your Legislators

Sat., Feb. 2 at 9:30 a.m., Browning Room, Central Library, downtown Evansville

### Meet Your Legislators

Sat., Feb. 23 at 9:30 a.m., Browning Room, Central Library,

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Inspiration from Other Communities -- *Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness*

Across the country, the "Housing First" model is working to both prevent and end homelessness. One example of prevention through such collaborative efforts is found in our nation's capital through the Community Care Grant program operated by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness since 1998 in Washington, DC.

Families at imminent risk of becoming homeless are immediately referred to the city's eight community-based Family Support Collaboratives.

The Community Care Grant

- focuses on *preventing* families from entering the homeless services system (emergency shelter and/or transitional housing) by adopting a neighborhood-based service delivery system.

- focuses on *rapid, targeted, time-limited assistance* that does not interfere with the normality of living and functioning in a community.

- serves as a *gateway to neighborhood-based mainstream services* that can assist a family in maintaining long term stability and reducing the number of times a family has to move.

### Program Structure

The city's shelter system for families has a central intake site, where each receives a preliminary as-

essment. Following this assessment, families may be offered the opportunity to participate in the Community Care Grant program as an alternative to entering the shelter system.

### Program Services

A grant of up to \$7,000 is provided to the Family Support Center for each family that is referred by the Community Partnership. \$4,000 finances the provision of transitional case management and the remaining \$3,000 can be used more flexibly to help the family transition quickly into permanent housing.

The Community Care Grant offers three services to prevent homelessness:

#### Identifying Housing

Through neighborhood relationships and the utilization of housing specialists, Collaboratives assist a family in identifying a permanent unit that is of an appropriate size and cost to the family.

#### Supportive Services

The Supportive Services component is mandatory and assists families in dealing with barriers to independence identified in their case plan. It also attempts to introduce life skills to live independently such as money and household management strategies.

#### Flexible Financial Assistance

Based on needs identified

in the spending plan, each family in the Community Care Grant program can obtain flexible financial assistance for up to 12 months. Financial assistance is often used to pay portions of monthly rent, security deposit, furniture or outstanding bills.

### Effectiveness & Outcomes

The provision of such a grant that successfully prevents a homeless stay is seen as a cost effective alternative to a "typical" stay in the city's emergency shelter system. The length of such a stay for a family averages 186 days and costs \$62 a day or \$11,439 over the typical length of stay.



The program has had a 71% success rate of housing families from 1998 to 2002.

For more information, visit the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness website below or call 202.543.5298.

(Source: Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness [www.community-partnership.org/](http://www.community-partnership.org/))

## Spotlight on ... YWCA

The YWCA has been serving the Evansville area since 1911 and from its inception has provided housing and services for women and girls.

### Domestic Violence Shelter

Since 1979, the YWCA has provided a safe haven for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, year round. Services include a crisis line, counseling, safe housing, assistance in planning alternatives, medical/legal/social services advocacy, referrals and information, support groups, children's counseling, food and personal care items, and limited transportation.

### Emergency Housing

The YWCA also provides housing and services for homeless women and children.

### Transition Housing Recovery Program

THR is a structured residential program for homeless women recovering from substance abuse. Counseling, employment referrals, support groups, and recreation are components of this program.

### CURRENT NEEDS

Sturdy high chair, refrigerator, deodorant and other personal care products, women's & children's underwear, women's &

children's sleepwear, alarm clocks, children's books, towels & washcloths, pillows, blankets

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteers to help with children's programs in the evening and to assist with grounds maintenance.

Call Judy Thomas.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

YWCA Annual Tribute to Achievement May 15, 2008

For more information, contact the YWCA

118 Vine St. Evansville, IN 47708 812.422.1191

[www.ywcaevansville.org](http://www.ywcaevansville.org)



## Destination: Home on the Radio

If you're a radio listener (or if this article gets you curious), when you tune into one of the South Central Communications stations listed below during the week of December 31, you'll hear the first of 10 commercials spotlighting *Destination: Home* next year.

- WIKY 104.1 FM
- HOT96 96.1 FM
- WABX 107.5 FM
- 93.5 The Wolf at 93.5 FM, and
- JACK 107.1 FM

During the first week of each month in 2008, listeners will hear 30-second messages that will help

raise awareness in the area about homelessness and the long-term solutions underway through our community's ten-year plan to end and prevent homelessness.



## Destination: Home on the Internet

*Thank you for your ongoing interest in the progress of implementing our community's 10-year plan to end and prevent homelessness!*

Send your friends and colleagues to [Destination: Home's\\_home on the Internet](http://Destination:Home's_home_on_the_Internet) to sign up for e-

newsletters, like this "Destination:Home Update," *Housing Matters!* activities, *PlaySpaces* progress, Volunteer Opportunities, and others related to projects and strategies of the ten-year plan.

Simply, type an e-mail address into the "Sign up

for our E-mail newsletters" button at the left of each page and click "Go."

