



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **REALTORS® Celebrate 30 Years of Giving**

INDIANAPOLIS — Donors to the REALTOR® Foundation will wrap up their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the next two weeks as leaders conclude what they hope to be a record-breaking fundraising year.

The REALTOR® Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR), mobilizes the local real estate industry to raise critical funding for central Indiana's homeless community. Through an Annual Fund and specialized events, Foundation donors distribute grants to the providers of services for the homeless. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$25,000.

Prior to directing its focus on homelessness, the organization rallied around neighborhood revitalization and beautification projects. The turning point to aid the homeless came in 2003 and has energized the real estate industry to give back within their communities. Throughout more than a decade of homelessness-focused grants, strong relationships have been formed with the grant recipients. In fact, the first grant recipient – Sheltering Wings – is still funded by the REALTOR® Foundation today.

“The REALTOR® Foundation helped us get our start,” explained Cassie Martin, Sheltering Wings executive director. “They had confidence in our approach from the beginning. We have developed relationships with REALTORS® and the whole industry that we never envisioned. They have helped us leverage other funding and become more aware of the problem of domestic violence in our community.”

In addition to setting a \$130,000 Annual Fund goal in 2014, REALTOR® Foundation leaders wove the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme into many of the year's activities, including honoring 30 individuals who have made an impact, conducting volunteer days of giving at grant recipient locations and launching its first-ever grant giveaway via social media.

In the grant giveaway, all members of MIBOR were given the opportunity to nominate an organization to receive a special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary one-time grant. Engagement spiked as more than 50 individual organizations across central Indiana were nominated and subsequently voted upon. The entire process took place through Facebook, concluding with a \$5,000 grant presented to the Grace Church Care Center.

Fundraising for the Annual Fund will conclude on Dec. 31, 2014 and the newest grant recipients will be announced in early February.

“It's been an exciting year,” said Dean A. Hicks, 2014 REALTOR® Foundation president. “But as with any anniversary, it's all about looking ahead. We have a proud history of passionate and caring donors and we are humbled to be part of the solution to homelessness in central Indiana – it's just the beginning.”

Those interested in learning more about the Foundation's mission, past grant recipients and opportunities to give can visit [www.realtorfoundation.org](http://www.realtorfoundation.org) for details.

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*This information has been provided by the REALTOR® Foundation and the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). Established in 1984, the REALTOR® Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR) and strives to link hope to homeless citizens. MIBOR, the professional association representing central Indiana's REALTORS®, serves the needs of nearly 6,500 members in Boone, Brown, Decatur, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan and Shelby counties. More at [www.realtorfoundation.org](http://www.realtorfoundation.org). #Celebrate30.*