



For Immediate Release

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REALTORS® make \$90,000 in funding available to local homeless service providers
2008 grant schedule enhanced by \$10,000 in immediate relief for two flood-damaged non-profits

Today, the REALTOR® Foundation announced that it will make \$90,000 in annual grants available to local charities that supply critical, emergency housing for victims of unforeseen circumstances.

In its largest-ever gift cycle, the Foundation will award funds to benefit organizations that assist a wide range of homeless individuals, such as recently emancipated foster children, men recovering from hospitalization, women and children who have been victims of domestic violence and mental health and addiction patients. The deadline for applications is July 18.

In addition to its established grant schedule, the REALTOR® Foundation board also allocated an emergency \$10,000 grant to help two 2007 Foundation gift recipients that sustained damage from the spring flooding. Johnson County's Christian Help, Inc. will receive \$5,000, and an additional \$5,000 was invested to help Desert Rose Foundation of Martinsville recover from its flood damage.

"This flood event has been unprecedented for central Indiana, and so many of our neighbors lost their homes and everything they own. But when we learned that two of the organizations in our extended family of support had suffered staggering loss, the REALTOR® Foundation immediately rallied to help," explained Roger Lundy, 2008 president of the REALTOR® Foundation. "We hope that the \$5,000 emergency grants will provide some quick aid to the organizations and the people they serve during this trying time."

Established in 1984, the REALTOR® Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). Through its work in transitional housing — which the Foundation defines as the step between emergency shelter and permanent homeownership — the organization partners with existing organizations to address homelessness throughout central Indiana.

Each year, the Foundation looks to support the vital work of organizations that serve people displaced because of domestic violence, natural disaster, or those affected by economic hardships that have made them temporarily homeless.

In 2007, Pathway to Recovery received a REALTOR® Foundation grant to help support its programs to help homeless people stabilize their addictions. The Indianapolis non-profit caters to homeless people struggling with both addiction and mental illness, explained executive director Sandy Jeffers.

"Their grant supports our general operating costs and patient entry — the first and most critical step of our program," Jeffers said. "Once patients are in the later stages of our process, they are self-sufficient and require no financial support from us. The patients eventually pay their own rent. But in the beginning, our clients are coming to us with nothing. That's where the REALTOR® Foundation gift has really helped us."

Through the traditional 12 steps, group support systems and collaboration with local mental health providers, Pathway to Recovery helps its homeless clients become mentally stable, and then helps them to address their unemployment issues. Even clients receiving disability benefits and unable to work are

scheduled for volunteer work and part-time employment, Jeffers said. Clients can reside in one of Pathway to Recovery's group housing units from as little as 30 days up to 2 years, until they prove they are ready to sustain their own permanent housing.

"The REALTOR® Foundation grants not only provide support to the organizations helping central Indiana's homeless, they also raise awareness of the gauntlet of support needed for this population," said Lundy. "It's more than just providing basic food and housing. We try to distribute the grants across the region and to a varied group of recipients, so that our investments can do the most good for the most people in central Indiana."

The \$90,000 allocated for 2008 grants as well as the \$10,000 in emergency funds was raised through annual events like the REALTOR® Foundation Golf Outing and individual and corporate donations from the real estate community.

Organizations interested in learning more about the Foundation's competitive grant process can visit www.realtorfoundation.org for more information, or to download an application.

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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). MIBOR, the professional association representing central Indiana's REALTORS®, serves the needs of more than 8,000 members in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan and Shelby counties.