



For Immediate Release

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REALTORS® Lend a Hand to Nonprofits Serving Local Homeless
MIBOR members in 10 counties use REALTOR® Foundation Awareness Week
to promote volunteerism and philanthropy

Indianapolis – Once again this summer, REALTORS® across 10 counties will lend their support to the men and women who wage a daily battle against homelessness in central Indiana. The third-annual REALTOR® Foundation Awareness Week, which began today, will provide volunteer and fundraising opportunities through the Foundation – the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR).

Each year, the REALTOR® Foundation utilizes its grants program 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 the last five years, the Foundation has granted \$420,000 to homelessness service providers in Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion and Morgan counties.

REALTOR® Foundation Awareness Week serves to celebrate this good work through fundraising and awareness events. MIBOR members can also register for volunteer opportunities throughout the week, ranging from child care to gardening. Organizations participating in the service event include The Julian Center, Gennesaret Free Clinic, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, Christian Help, Inc. and Wellspring Center.

“It’s rewarding to have hands-on opportunities to work with these service providers,” explained Bonita Hurt, a REALTOR® who participated in last year’s day of service and plans to donate her time again this year. “Just a few hours out of the week can make such a big difference. The organizations are so truly grateful for our help – it’s very rewarding.”

In addition to one-day volunteer events like those provided through REALTOR® Foundation Awareness Week, many of the host organizations receive sustained year-round support from the Foundation through grants and other funding opportunities. Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, for example, uses REALTOR® Foundation resources to help support its Fostering Independence program – designed to provide transitional housing and support services to young adults who have aged out of the foster care system.

“Forty percent of the young people who age out of the foster care system will end up homeless or incarcerated – they don’t have anywhere else to go,” explained Lorraine Stout, program coordinator for Fostering Independence. “Support from organizations like the REALTOR® Foundation allows us to give them the tools and skills they need to become self-sufficient, and ultimately prevents homelessness in this at-risk population.”

This end result is the ultimate goal of the REALTOR® Foundation and its many community-driven events.

"We all live and work in central Indiana, but most of us never see homelessness in our day-to-day lives," said Kaye Hirt, 2009 President of the REALTOR® Foundation. "This week is a chance to not only make others aware of the local homeless population and their struggles, but to raise our own awareness of the things we can do to help. This isn't a problem facing people in another part of the world. This is happening to our neighbors, right here in our community."

This year, Awareness Week will also include a new signature event. On Thursday, June 11, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. guests can enjoy the Foundation's take on a Taste of Indy at 3 Mass Condos, the new development located at the corner of New York St. and Mass Ave. Guests will enjoy a full tour of the property while sampling signature fare from restaurants such as Shula's, Agio, Scotty's Brewhouse and JS Reutz Café. In addition, participants can test their skills at games to help raise money for homelessness in central Indiana.

To register for all Awareness Week activities including the volunteer opportunities, call Molly Hahn at 317-956-5255. To learn more about Awareness Week, visit www.realtorfoundation.org/awareness.

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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 6,500 members in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan and Shelby counties.