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PUBLIC ART PIECE UNVEILED AT CHASE LEGACY CENTER

Building a Living Legacy donors and community leaders gathered to unveil permanent installation honoring St. Clair Place accomplishments

Indianapolis – A public art dedication took place yesterday at the Chase Legacy Center in Indianapolis' Near Eastside Neighborhood in celebration of the community redevelopment efforts surrounding the 2012 Super Bowl Housing Legacy Project.

Made possible by a grant through the Glick Fund, which provided \$24,000 to the project, the sculpture celebrates the ongoing community redevelopment of the Near Eastside, specifically the ***Building a Living Legacy*** project, sponsored by the REALTOR® Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). The piece was designed and created by local artist Jude Odell with the assistance of youth from area schools.

The ***Building a Living Legacy*** initiative involved the renovation or new construction of 32 housing units in St. Clair Place that now provide permanent supportive housing for families coming out of, or on the verge of, homelessness. The homes are owned and managed by the John H. Boner Community Center. To celebrate the families and donors to the project, the John H. Boner Community Center, the REALTOR® Foundation, and the Indianapolis Art Center collaborated to recognize and celebrate the success of this project through the establishment of a piece of public art.

The sculpture, which stands almost 6 feet tall, is completely covered in handcrafted ceramic mosaic on four sides, which interpret the neighborhood's community in different ways. It highlights the unique character, renewed vitality, and quality of living in the Near Eastside community. One side recognizes the donors and supporters of the ***Building a Living Legacy*** project. The other three sides are entitled "Building Healthy Lives," "Building Community," and "Building Neighborhoods." The hand-built tiles include images of houses that reflect the unique architecture of the area, symbols of health and wellness, and smiling faces representative of the neighborhood's diverse population.

Creating the sculpture also involved elementary, middle, and high school students in the clay process. Ms. Odell, a ceramicist who has extensive experience creating public art and murals and teaching art to youth in Indianapolis, brought clay and tools to various sites so that students could create elements of the mosaic. The pieces created by the students, along with those fully crafted by Ms. Odell, were fired in the kiln at the artist's studio. They were then glazed, some with the help of a core group of older student assistants, and fired again.

Adult volunteers were also involved in building the underlying structure for the ceramic mosaic pieces and assisting in the installation process, which involved carefully adhering each of the 800-plus tiles to the surface, piece by piece. All together, the dedicated and combined work of artist, youth, and volunteers has created a proud and beautiful free-standing mosaic sculpture that will withstand the elements and last for many years as a tribute to this exciting time in Indianapolis' Near Eastside.

About the REALTOR® Foundation and *Building a Living Legacy*:

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. Building a Living Legacy is a project of the Foundation in celebration of MIBOR's centennial in 2012. For more information, visit www.mibor100.com.

About the John H. Boner Community Center:

The John H. Boner Community Center is a not-for-profit agency founded to serve residents of the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. Throughout the years, the Center's philosophy led to the creation of numerous services and programs in response to changes within the neighborhood. Neighborhood-driven efforts are essential in developing a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. The Center provides an array of tools for change and growth for our residents and community partners. Through our work, the Center is inspiring hope and fostering change to improve the lives of neighborhood residents.

Indianapolis Art Center:

The mission of the Indianapolis Art Center is to engage, enlighten, and inspire our community by providing interactive art education, outreach to underserved audiences, support of artists, and exposure to the visual arts. More info at www.indplsartcenter.org.

About the Artist, Jude Odell:

Jude Odell is a clay artist living and working in Indianapolis. She holds a BFA in Crafts and Art Education from Virginia Commonwealth University and has been granted an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Indiana Arts Commission and Artist Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis. She shows and sells her figurative claywork nationally in galleries and at juried shows. Jude currently represents the Indianapolis Art Center, Young Audiences of Indiana, and Garfield Park Art Center and maintains a clay studio at her residence and a painting and gallery studio at the Harrison Center for the Arts.

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