

LISC

The Latest

Local Initiatives Support Corporation
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A Lasting Legacy

Conceived and led by LISC and embraced by the National Football League (NFL), the Legacy Project will help make the GINI quality-of-life plan for the Near East Side become a reality. This includes supporting major community redevelopment efforts, including construction of a world-class practice facility at Arsenal Technical High School.

Score One for the East Side

Currently, fundraising and planning efforts are well underway with James Taylor, former executive director of the Boner Center, leading a staff of three people as the new chief executive officer of the Legacy Project. The Super Bowl Host Committee is providing the Boner Center with \$780,000 to pay for these important positions through 2012 when the Super Bowl comes to Indianapolis.

Also, this committee includes five sub-committees focused on the new practice center coming to Tech, housing redevelopment, economic development and revitalization, Near Eastside special events, and a leadership committee composed of the chairs of the other sub-committees. The leadership committee's focus is resource development. The sub-committees are all co-chaired by a corporate partner and a neighborhood resident.

"The NFL's involvement in the project has created for us a call to action for the broader corporate and civic community to come alongside and support the realization of our neighborhood's hopes and dreams," Taylor said. "I always expected we would implement our plan, but being named as the Super Bowl Legacy Project has given us a big spotlight and the ability to accelerate this implementation. And we have been overwhelmed by the positive responses we are getting from the broader community."

The Legacy Project got its start after LISC learned the Super Bowl Bid Committee sought community



projects to engage NFL leaders and leave a lasting impact. LISC immediately thought of the GINI quality-of-life plans and pitched the idea to committee chair Mark Miles. The committee chose the Near East Side for the Legacy Project because Tech High School met the requirements for the Super Bowl practice facility and because it saw this as a great way to invest in broader community revitalization.

"If it wasn't for LISC, the 600 plus neighborhood residents couldn't have done their part in creating the QOL Plan. And without a plan, the Super Bowl Committee would have selected some other idea," Taylor said. "We're very pleased about how this worked out as we anticipate this momentum will continue for many years following the 2012 Super Bowl."

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Campus of Arsenal
Technical High School
on the Near Eastside

**LISC is a nonprofit
dedicated to helping
people build better
urban neighborhoods.
We help neighbors
build communities.**

LISC
Indianapolis
*Helping neighbors
build communities*

Residents of Bates-Hendricks
help beautify community

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *message*



We want to make it easy for you to know what's new and what's news with LISC. That's why we've started this quarterly newsletter, *The Latest* at LISC, as an important tool for communicating our progress to our friends and supporters in the community.

And our inaugural issue has lots of big news. 2008 has been a busy year for LISC and our partners. As indicated in our cover story, we've enjoyed success in connecting with the NFL on the Legacy Project. Other stories in the newsletter detail how we've completed our GINI quality-of-life planning in six Indianapolis neighborhoods, awarded the \$50,000 challenge grants in those neighborhoods, and launched the Centers for Working Families.

It's all part of our strategic plan for promoting comprehensive community development in Indianapolis. Using the vision of our strategic plan as a guide, Indianapolis LISC has moved forward with a focus on strategic geographic investment areas and expanded range of community development activities in six program investment areas:

- *Supporting comprehensive community development.* Addressing neighborhood life as a whole to effect lasting transformation.
- *Expanding capital investment in housing.* Helping to create nicer, safer, more affordable places to live.
- *Stimulating local economic activity.* Spurring business development in urban neighborhoods.
- *Increasing family wealth, income, and employment.* Dealing with poverty issues at their root.
- *Improving access to quality education.* Giving students and parents better programs and more choices.
- *Supporting healthy environments and lifestyles.* Bringing a green agenda to community development.

In collaboration with our partners, LISC achieves its comprehensive community development goals through innovative programs such as Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative (GINI) and Fostering Commercial Urban Strategies (FOCUS). LISC will continue to respond to the needs of other neighborhoods by responding to their requests for services in support of neighborhood development.

And we will continue to use this newsletter to keep you updated on our efforts. Thanks for reading and for doing your part to make our community stronger.

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Building Blocks For Affordable Living

Residents in the historic Bates-Hendricks neighborhood have seen first hand the power of working together to improve their community—and LISC helped make it happen.

As provider of a total of \$150,000 in grants to Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND), LISC received the honor of being the title sponsor of the Fab for Less Design Home Tour: Building Blocks for Affordable Living. The two-day event showcased the complete renovation of two homes, construction of one new home, and exterior renovations to nearly 30 more homes and common areas in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of South New Jersey Street. What was once a fun interior design tour has now become a showcase for comprehensive community development.

With the help of local designers and landscapers—and a decorating budget of just \$1,500 per home—each home's interior showcased designs that were affordable, beautiful, and livable. The homes, which cost between \$82,000 and \$95,000, will be sold to low- to moderate-income homebuyers.

Although LISC supported the event in the past, this is the first year LISC was a title sponsor. The affordable design tour event is in its seventh year and has attracted more than 7,000 visitors.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Comprehensive community development takes people with vision: neighborhood leaders working with a quality-of-life plan to achieve their goals. Comprehensive community development also requires the financial support of individuals, foundations, and businesses who believe in the power of people to make their neighborhoods better places to live, work, visit, and raise families.

Will you help? LISC is a non-profit corporation, and your contributions to help fund better neighborhoods are always tax deductible. To find out how you can support LISC and its programs, please contact Shawn Thomas at sthomas@lisc.org or visit our website www.lisc.org/indianapolis

Helping Working Families Find Financial Success

LISC wants all working families in Indianapolis to be economically successful. To implement this vision, LISC fosters the development of neighborhood-based, one-stop resource centers: Centers for Working Families (CWF). These offers variety of services to grow the assets of working families to help them get — and stay — ahead for long-term financial success. The program offers support services such as:

- Onsite employment services (job placement, retention, re-attachment, and advancement)
- Onsite, one-on-one financial coaching that is content-appropriate
- Onsite access to income and work supports (public benefits, tax credits, tax return preparation)
- Consumer advocacy with financial institutions to offer financial products and services at fair prices

This past year, LISC added three new program sites for a total of five:

- Hawthorne Community Center
- Oasis of Hope/Martindale Brightwood
- Southeast Community Services
- Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center
- John H. Boner Community Center

To further help these families prosper, LISC also manages the Making Connections Job Pipeline in the Martindale Brightwood and Southeast neighborhoods. Highlights include:

- Neighborhood participants receiving employment services – 62
- Neighborhood participants receiving financial counseling – 65
- Neighborhood participants receiving benefits counseling – 60

Jobs Pipeline

- Neighborhood participants placed in jobs – 109
- Percentage of those jobs with benefits – 61%
- Participants still working at 180 days – 75%



One-on-one financial literacy counseling at Southeast Community Service Center

GINI Neighborhoods Keep The Progress Going

Great Indy Neighborhoods (GINI) continues its quest to take comprehensive community development activities to a new level by promoting and funding neighborhood-driven improvements throughout Marion County.

In 2008, the six GINI neighborhoods finalized their quality-of-life plans and residents are working diligently to complete projects. To assist them in their efforts, LISC is providing matching grants up to \$50,000 in support of neighborhoods projects. LISC has awarded \$70,000 in support of:

- \$50,000 grant to West Indianapolis for the “Opening Gateways to the Neighborhood” project.
- \$20,000 grant to SEND for the “Building Blocks for Affordable Living” project.

Great Indy Neighborhoods, a partnership between the City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC), and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), is a three-year program that promotes comprehensive community development in Indianapolis neighborhoods. GINI was created to focus investment and activity in neighborhoods that are ready to become better places to live, work, visit, and raise a family. The program helps neighborhood residents, businesses, and community organizations get organized and involved in the neighborhood, decide on neighborhood priorities, and act on their plans to drive meaningful change.

LISC Latest is published quarterly by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation
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To receive the newsletter via email, contact
Shawn Thomas at stthomas@lisc.org.

LISC is a national organization with local priorities committed to helping neighbors build communities. We work with the local nonprofit community development organizations to help transform distressed urban neighborhoods into healthy communities that are great places to live, work, do business, and raise families. Indianapolis LISC mobilizes corporate and philanthropic support on behalf of local neighborhoods, providing them with loans, grants and equity investments, policy support, and the technical and management assistance they need to realize their goals.

Bill Taft, Executive Director

Direct questions or change of address to
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
UPCOMING EVENTS**

● **LISC Façade Applications**

Due: 2/15/09

Contact: Will Pritchard 396-0588 x16
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