

Winning Communities™

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Building and Achieving Your Community Vision

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelby County receives \$75,000 “4community” Grant

Funds will help Enhance Shelby’s Leadership Program and Address Community’s Health Issues

Indianapolis, Indiana and Shelby County, Indiana – August 24, 2006 — Winning Communities announced today that Shelby County, Indiana has received \$75,000 matching grant from the Indiana Association of United Ways (IaUW), to be used to support its county leadership program and to address the community health needs for its low-income residents.

Shelby County received the grant funding following several months of community planning sessions, facilitated by Indiana community consulting firm Winning Communities, Inc. Shelby County citizens and representatives from several community stakeholders gathered throughout 2005 to examine previous plans and studies, as well as attitudes, the economy, and the affect of neighboring counties on Shelby County’s development opportunities. The community then identified more than 20 issues that were most important to the future of Shelby County, and then decided to direct immediate attention on its leadership program, Leadership Shelby County, as well as on countywide health issues.

“Many of the problems that we identified came back to the fact that we needed more help in solving the high infant death rate in the county, which seemed to come back to the teen pregnancy rate and the lack of prenatal care for so many in the community,” said Arthur Spriggs, executive director of Shelby County United Fund Inc.“

With the county’s high rates of teen pregnancy, infant death rates, teen smoking and suicide, Shelby County sought to alleviate some of these issues through the grant funding as well as maximizing and collaborating community resources. The grant funds will go toward the eventual merging of the Shelby County Prenatal Care Clinic and the Shelby Health Clinic into one nonprofit organization, with expanded hours, staff, supplies and services. The funds will also support a new women’s shelter called The Sanctuary with new fire doors and safety systems. Finally, the grant funds will provide applications fees, marketing, development and project support for Leadership Shelby County, a program for training future community leaders and enhancing the economic growth and development of Shelby County.

In addition to the grant funding received from the IaUW, Shelby County is responsible for collecting \$75,000 in matching funds through donations from businesses and community groups.

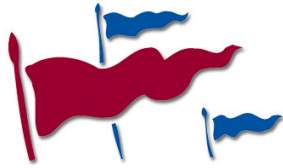
“After review of the major issues in Shelby County, the steering committee did a terrific job of focusing upon immediate issues that will return long-term solutions,” said Jim Dittoe, president and founder of Winning Communities, Inc. “What Shelby County needs to do in the future is to see how this relates to the total community vision.”

About Winning Communities:

Winning Communities is a community planning consulting company that has facilitated numerous community vision and action plans for cities, towns and counties throughout the United States. Jim Dittoe, President of Winning Communities, Inc. has been building community progress for more than 30 years, and has developed a unique certification program called the Certified Winning Communities program, which is open to any county, city or town that seeks to create a vision and action plan for its future success. The Association of

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Indiana Counties, the Community Bankers Association of Illinois and the Community Bankers Association of Indiana formally endorse the Winning Communities program. For more information about Winning Communities or the Certified Winning Communities process, contact Jim Dittoe at (317) 402-0524, email jim@winningcommunities.com or visit www.winningcommunities.com.

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