

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., *Governor* • Isaac E. Randolph, Jr., *Executive Director*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ligonier Teen Honored for Volunteer Service



Christina Pena (center) accepts her award from OFBCI Executive Director Isaac Randolph (left) and USA Freedom Corps Director Henry Lozano (right).

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 25, 2008) “Christina voice on various boards in the Noble County Community helps to direct those organizations to better serve families and youth, and better serve the Latino population of our county,” states Janet Stork of Drug Free Noble County and nominator of Christina Pena of Ligonier Ind., for the Governor’s Awards for Volunteer Service for Youth. Pena was honored as the award recipient given during the 5th Annual Governor’s

Conference on Service and Volunteerism in Indianapolis on March 25th. The Governor’s Awards for Volunteer Service are Indiana’s most

prestigious awards celebrating the accomplishments of dedicated volunteers and practitioners from across the State. An individual is nominated in each of the six categories of youth, service-learning, faith-based, volunteerism, national service and lifetime achievement.

Beginning her volunteer service at the age of eleven, Pena over the past four years has served as a board member, mission’s secretary, Sunday school teacher, diversity festival committee member, and after-school volunteer. One of her projects was a mission’s trip to Nicaragua, where she raised \$9,000.00 through fundraising events in the Ligonier area to build a church for the country. “Christina demonstrates leadership in everything she does. She takes on challenges and helps get goals accomplished,” states Stork. “She doesn’t see her age or race as a limitation in any way.” To keep current on what is going on in her community; Pena regularly attends Ligonier City Council and often speaks out as a voice for the youth.

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“Christina just has a heart to serve her community and the world,” notes Stork. “Her civic involvement is what is most impressive. Christina also maintains an impressive academic record despite all the hours she puts in through her volunteer service.” Pena joined five other Indiana award recipients recognized for their commitment to civic engagement during the award luncheon at the Governor’s conference. “From mentoring at-risk youth, to promoting healthier lifestyles, to helping our senior citizens stay active and independent, Hoosier volunteers touch lives with hope and encouragement everyday,” said Governor Mitch Daniels.

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The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives promotes service and volunteerism in the State of Indiana. Working together with other government agencies, AmeriCorps*State programs, volunteer centers, and faith-based and community organizations, the OFBCI helps Hoosiers to develop and implement solutions in their own communities.