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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Ind. nonprofit success key focus at Governor's Conference**

*Ind. OFBCI, IUPUI's Polis Center partner to become leading nonprofit resource*

INDIANAPOLIS - Approximately 55,000 nonprofit organizations are established in the state of Indiana.

Now, the SAVI Community Information System (a program of The Polis Center at IUPUI) and the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) are joining forces to host a day of collaboration, idea sharing and networking to supply these nonprofits and faith-based organizations with the resources they need to thrive.

The 2012 Governor's Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building is a joining of two conferences, SAVI's Nonprofit Capacity Building Conference and OFBCI's Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism.

This inaugural conference will be held Oct. 2, 2012 at the Marten House in Indianapolis. The day will bring together leaders in the nonprofit sector, volunteer coordinators and innovative thinkers to participate in conversations about best practices, receive meaningful training, establish collaborative partnerships and celebrate success stories.

"IUPUI welcomes this opportunity to work with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to enhance the capacity of nonprofits and voluntarism with this newly combined conference," states IUPUI Chancellor Charles Bantz. "The complementary missions of the OFBCI and our Polis Center, as sponsor of the Social Assets and Vulnerabilities Indicators database, are a perfect foundation for joining training, development, and recognition of volunteers and organizations."

The Governor's Service Awards will kick off the conference on Oct. 1, recognizing people, nonprofit organizations and businesses that have voluntarily contributed time and talent to the betterment of their communities.

"Generations of Hoosiers have been contributing to their communities," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "There is never a task too great or a job too small, [and] I am constantly reminded of the positive impact that volunteers make on the quality of life for our neighbors."

Goals for the conference include:

Building capacity of nonprofit, faith-based, and community-based organizations in Indiana to:

- Be more effective at planning, decision making, program management, fundraising, and governance
- Utilize a volunteer force
- Use local, community data and information to improve decision making.

Provide a forum for:

- Engaging in meaningful dialogue
- Exchanging best practices
- Networking and forming partnerships
- Celebrating accomplishments

For more information or to register for the conference, contact Sharon Kandris at [skandris@iupui.edu](mailto:skandris@iupui.edu) or 317-278-2944 or visit [www.savi.org/ofbci/governorsconference](http://www.savi.org/ofbci/governorsconference).

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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## **About Indiana Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI)**

Indiana enjoys a rich tradition of Hoosiers working together to help themselves and their communities. In that spirit, the mission of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) is to connect organizations and communities to grants, services, and each other; promote volunteerism and service to improve the lives of Hoosiers; encourage public and private resources to seed and sustain innovative and high quality community and faith-based initiatives; and highlight the good works of individuals and their communities with best practices and innovative models.

Based on the [State Service Plan](#), OFBCI strives to be a statewide public champion for service, a strong local, regional and national partner, an efficient grant maker, and a broker of new and increased federal and state resources allocated towards service and volunteerism. OFBCI's goals are to: 1) increase the visibility of service and volunteerism statewide, 2) increase statewide partnerships around service and volunteerism, 3) effectively administer grant programs and national best practice service programs, and 4) align staff and financial resources towards strategic priorities and desired outcomes. For more information, visit [www.in.gov/ofbci](http://www.in.gov/ofbci).

## **About SAVI Community Information System**

SAVI Community Information System is a program of The Polis Center in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. SAVI – the nation's largest community information system of its type - is a free resource that helps organizations make data-informed decisions by providing data about Central Indiana communities, tools to analyze and visualize the data and training on how to use data effectively. SAVI offers demonstrations, webinars and classroom courses ranging from hands-on instruction to topical overviews. For more information, visit [www.savi.org](http://www.savi.org).