



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 23, 2007**

Contact: Cortney Stover , Indiana Finance Authority, (317) 234-3803  
or Jim McGoff , Indiana Brownfields Program, (317) 234-2916

***Goshen receives grant to complete brownfield assessment***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Brownfields Program has awarded \$35,000 to the City of Goshen to perform environmental assessment activities at a former industrial site in a residential neighborhood. A local non-profit organization plans to redevelop the site into 25 single-family homes.

LaCasa of Goshen, a local not-for-profit community development organization, has developed plans to replace the blighted former industrial site with modest, affordable housing designed to extend and complement the existing housing in the adjacent neighborhood.

"This grant will allow us to advance plans to remove an eyesore on the highly visible north State Road 15 entrance to our central business district," said Mayor Allan Kauffman. "We are pleased to receive this award from the Indiana Brownfields Program."

"This will be a positive development for Goshen ," said Rep. John Ulmer. "We need more space for residential growth and we are cleaning up a blighted area at the same time."

A brownfield is a property where redevelopment can be complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination. The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to help communities identify and mitigate these environmental barriers, which could impede the economic growth of the community.

Political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 to perform environmental assessment activities, including Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and asbestos and lead paint surveys. Awardees must meet an investment criterion within two years of a grant award; otherwise they must repay the grant. Investment can include, but is not limited to remediation, demolition, construction or site preparation.

“The City of Goshen has made significant improvements to infrastructure in the existing neighborhood, and LaCasa has invested in improving existing housing. Replacing the blight at the south end of the neighborhood will be an important step in helping the neighborhood feel good about itself,” said Mayor Kauffman.

The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and offers financial, legal, technical, and educational assistance to entities involved with brownfields redevelopment. The Indiana Finance Authority was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

“Cleaning up distressed properties in our cities and towns leads to new development, which brings in new businesses, and ultimately creates jobs for Hoosiers – Governor Daniels’ number one goal,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana. “Encouraging revitalization is an important aspect of Governor Mitch Daniels’ plan for a stronger Indiana economy,” said Kitchell.

Communities can obtain more information on grant eligibility from the Indiana Brownfields Program at [www.brownfields.in.gov](http://www.brownfields.in.gov) or contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688 or [swestrick@ifa.in.gov](mailto:swestrick@ifa.in.gov).

###