

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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Huntington Resident Honored For Lifetime Achievement In Service



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

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 25, 2008) The Victory Noll Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, a faith-based organization serving a community of retired sisters based in Huntington Ind., has recognized volunteer Helen Espinosa for her service since 1985. Espinosa was honored as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award 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.

Espinosa contributes countless hours to the Victory Noll Sisters as a registered nurse and missionary, serving sisters in Bolivia and other parts of the country. Her work in Indiana includes volunteering as a translator, religious educator, board member, Covenant Associate, and providing clinical services. "Helen is always willing to help out wherever needed," states Madonna Jeffers, administrator for the Victory Noll Motherhouse and nominator of Espinosa. "Helen is always willing to go to a sister in need, wherever she lives," continues Jeffers. "She has made a positive impact on the lives of many sisters through her volunteer efforts, recognizing the Sisters have touched her life deeply, and this is the ways she gives back." Espinosa's service to the Missionary Sisters for the past 21 years represents over 5000 hours that her time and talent was shared for the benefit of others.

As a single parent having raised ten children, Espinosa received her nursing license in her 50's and was able through her faith, perseverance, and great strength, to manage both her nursing

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career and her family needs. “No matter where the need is, Helen is always willing to offer her time, love and assistance. She is a very caring person and certainly deserves the Governor’s Award,” notes Jeffers.

Espinosa joined five other Indiana award recipients recognized for their commitment to civic engagement during the award luncheon at the Governor’s conference. “Generations of Hoosiers have been contributing to their communities. There is never a task too great or a job too small. As I travel our state, I am constantly reminded of the positive impact that volunteers make on the quality of life for our neighbors,” 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.