

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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Indianapolis Teachers Honored for Service-Learning



Teachers from Clinton Young Elementary (center) accept their award from OFBCI Executive Director Isaac Randolph (left) and USA Freedom Corps Director Henry Lozano (right).

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 25, 2008) Four teachers from Clinton Young Elementary School in Perry Township were honored for service-learning during the 5th Annual Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism in Indianapolis on March 25th. Kathy Buck, Amanda Snyder, Christin Meador, and Marcia Kirk received the Governor's Volunteer Service award for Service-Learning for their "Raising the Roof with Clinton Young!" project. 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.

The Raising the Roof! project involves over 700 students and 40 teachers, and numerous community partners, supporting the issue of affordable housing in Central Indiana. It is anticipated that by May of 2008 the project will have raised over \$2,000 to support a house building project for Habitat of Humanity of Greater Indianapolis. Service-learning participants have already recycled over 300 aluminum cans in order to reach their goal, and are providing additional housing needs for the local Indianapolis family receiving the Habitat house.

The teachers' goal is to engage all of their school in a truly hands-on learning experience. To that end, they applied for and received two grants to support the project. State Farm and Learn and Serve Indiana provided \$8,000.00 of funding to the project which provides over 80 hours of service-learning. The teachers will also present "Raising the Roof!" at the National Service

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Learning Conference in Minneapolis in April, with support for travel expenditures provided by State Farm.

“All four of these teachers put in countless hours after school and on weekends to serve not only the children and families of Clinton Young Elementary, but also numerous local organizations,” states Kerri Davis, Assistant Service Learning Coordinator for Perry Township schools and nominator of the teachers for the award. “As a school that has struggled to meet annual yearly progress requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act, teachers are constantly searching for ways to engage their students and increase academic achievement, and often don’t have the time during regular work hours to meet with community partners, so they often spend many hours out of school coordinating the project,” states Davis. “These teachers are doing the ultimate in volunteer service by ensuring that the spirit of volunteerism lives long into the future.”

The teachers 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.
