

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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Bloomington Resident Receives Governor's Award for Volunteerism



Accepting the award on behalf of Dr. Haddawi were Heather Allen and Loraine Addison (center), shown with OFBCI Executive Director Isaac Randolph (left) and USA Freedom Corps Director Henry Lozano (right).

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 25, 2008)

Distinguished Bloomington resident, Dr. Rajih Haddawi, was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Volunteerism 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.

Dr. Haddawi, a retired orthopedic hand surgeon, was honored for his work in creating Volunteers In Medicine (VIM), a free clinic serving the uninsured, low-income residents of Monroe and Owen counties. Utilizing in-kind donations of volunteer time, medical service and equipment, the VIM clinic is open five days and fifty-one hours a week. Nearly 300 volunteer providers; including physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists, counselors and other specialists serve the 2,809 enrolled clients of the clinic, considered one of the largest in the country. "Dr Haddawi not only initiated the process for starting VIM," said nominator LoRaine Addison, who serves as the clinic's Director of Volunteer Services, "he also has been involved on many levels as an organizer, fundraiser, recruiter, and advocate."

An energetic and committed community leader, Dr. Haddawi has also received recognition in both national and local arenas for his work with VIM, described as a "community-owned, community-operated, and community-financed" free medical clinic. "Dr. Haddawi's dedication

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to making his dream a reality and instilling a ‘culture of caring’ is now helping thousands of people in need,” states Addison.

Dr. Haddawi 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.