



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts:

James Taylor
CEO
John Boner Neighborhood Centers
317.808.2300
JTaylor@jbncenters.org

Jon Berg
IndyEast Promise Zone Director
John Boner Neighborhood Centers
630.222.4303
JBerg@jbncenters.org

B-roll of IndyEast Promise Zone: Melissa Benton
Director of Grants & Strategic Initiatives
John Boner Neighborhood Centers
317.760.1178
MBenton@jbncenters.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May, 19, 2016

***IndyEast Promise Zone Completes Year One with
Successes Totaling \$9.6M in Federal Investments***

Indianapolis –The IndyEast Promise Zone celebrates its first year of accomplishments including significant success in job creation.

“The Promise Zone designation has been used to secure 14 grants from seven different federal agencies totaling \$9.6 million,” said James Taylor, CEO of John Boner Neighborhood Centers. “The resources secured during this first year will create more than 100 new jobs, serve ex-offenders returning into our community, provide summer and year-round jobs for at-risk youth, provide targeted fair housing enforcement, and enable neighbors to become certified in healthcare fields in addition to other efforts. These activities benefit not only the IndyEast Promise Zone area, but our entire city.”

On April 28, 2015, a collaborative effort led by John Boner Neighborhood Centers, in conjunction with the City of Indianapolis and nine other implementation partners was awarded what is now known as the IndyEast Promise Zone designation. The plan that enabled much of the Near Eastside to be designated as a Promise Zone by the federal government is a ten-year designation that will provide new opportunities to achieve the goals set by Near Eastside residents through the Quality of Life Plan.

Today The Honorable Joe Hogsett, Mayor of Indianapolis, James Taylor, CEO of John Boner Neighborhood Centers, along with special guests Luke Tate, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Mobility, the White House and Antonio Riley, Midwest Regional Administrator for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) presented this year’s accomplishments at the soon-to-be completed Ash & Elm Cider Co. production facility; a new business opening within the Promise Zone.

****MORE****

Among other efforts, part of the funding secured in the past year has helped local groups with their efforts including the following:

- Provided money for brownfield assessments on industrial sites
- Created opportunities for an increase in arts programming
- Developed a pathway to increase the participation of low-income and minority residents in health careers
- Increased education, outreach, and investigation of fair housing violations
- Created over 100 new jobs
- Increased the number of matched savings accounts available for low-income residents to accelerate their savings and reach their goals faster

There is currently more than \$29 million in pending federal grant applications submitted by 19 organizations to eight different federal agencies.

“I was honored to offer my written support for the IndyEast Promise Zone designation in 2014. The success of the Indianapolis Promise Zone is truly impressive and lays the foundation for continued success,” said state Rep. André Carson. “I remain committed to bringing federal resources back to Indianapolis in the future.”

During the event, the official IndyEast Promise Zone logo was unveiled. The piece, created by Miles Herndon, reflects the energy, passion, and collaboration of the Near Eastside revitalization and will be used on Promise Zone projects throughout the city as a reminder of the goals we are working to achieve, together.

ABOUT THE INDYEAST PROMISE ZONE

As the lead applicant, John Boner Neighborhood Centers and the residents of Near Eastside of Indianapolis have enlisted the assistance of multiple organizations to develop strategies around the following five goals to improve the quality of life and accelerate revitalization. These goals include:

- Live IndyEast – To create affordable housing options
- Work IndyEast – To create jobs
- Buy IndyEast – To increase economic activity
- Safe IndyEast – To reduce serious and violent crime
- Learn IndyEast – To improve educational opportunity

IndyEast Promise Zone

In the 1980's, the Near Eastside of Indianapolis was home to middle-class families with good-paying manufacturing jobs. With the decline of this sector of the local economy, and the resulting loss of many of those working families, these neighborhoods suffered from investment, concentrated poverty and blight. Promise Zones are high poverty and high capacity communities where the federal government will work with local leaders to increase efforts to achieve neighborhood created goals and priorities and are selected through a competitive grant application process. The second round of applications consisted of a total of 123 applications, eight of which were selected to receive the Promise Zone designation (six urban, one rural, and one tribal). There will be a total of 20 Promise Zones nationwide. In 2014, the first five were named and in 2015, eight more, including the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Implementation partners include:

- City of Indianapolis
- Englewood Community Development Corporation
- Indianapolis Housing Agency

****MORE****

- Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership
 - Indianapolis Public Schools
 - Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
 - Local Initiatives Support Corporation
 - Near East Area Renewal
 - United Way of Central Indiana
 - Westminster Neighborhood Services
- <http://indyeast.org>

About the IndyEast Promise Zone Logo



Created by Miles Herndon, the IndyEast Promise Zone logo reflects the energy, passion and collaboration of the neighborhood's revitalization. The star is a nod to our city's flag and the five points of the star represent the project's five goals: Live, Work, Buy, Safe, and Learn. The "bloom", comprised of overlapping colored petals, signifies a vibrant community working together for a brighter future. The logo will be used on Promise Zone projects across the city and will be a visible reminder of the goals we are working to achieve, together.

About John Boner Neighborhood Centers

John Boner Neighborhood Center is a not-for-profit agency founded to serve residents of the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. Throughout the years, the Center's philosophy led to the creation of numerous services and programs in response to changes within the neighborhood. Neighborhood-driven efforts are essential in developing a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. The Center provides an array of tools for change and growth for our residents and community partners. Through our work, the Center is inspiring hope and fostering change to improve the lives of neighborhood residents. <http://jbncenters.com>