



FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF INDIANAPOLIS
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2016

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Kokomo Banker Hickman Wins FHLBI 2016 Community Spirit Award

Bob Hickman, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Community First Bank of Indiana, received the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (FHLBI) 2016 Community Spirit Award August 26 at the Indiana Housing Conference for organizations and professionals involved in affordable housing.

"FHLBI is proud to honor Bob Hickman with the 2016 Community Spirit Award," said FHLBI President and CEO Cindy L. Konich. "His commitment to increasing affordable housing alternatives for his Kokomo, and Howard County, communities is clear."

Hickman was nominated for the Community Spirit Award in recognition of the assistance he provided Bona Vista Programs Inc., a nonprofit community based organization that helps build a foundation of success for children and adults, regardless of abilities, through encouragement, independence, and inclusion. Jill S. Dunn, President and CEO of Bona Vista, nominated him both for his years of support of their organization and the affordable housing needs in the community.

"Bob is easy to work with and responsive to fulfilling the regulatory demands of an FHLBI sponsoring bank," Dunn said in her nomination. "When we first approached Bob about partnering with us to develop our first housing project, he was supportive immediately."

Though at the time Bona Vista approached him, Community First Bank of Indiana was not a participating member of FHLBI, Hickman readily learned the processes and took the initiative to become a sponsoring bank, Dunn said. He led the way on four projects, including an award this year from FHLBI's Affordable Housing Project grant for \$500,000 for Bona Vista's Meridian Park Apartments project, which will provide 13 supported living units on land donated by the City of Kokomo.

In addition, Hickman has partnered with the Family Services Association of Howard County, a non-profit organization that promotes healthy families and empowers vulnerable individuals and families, on another AHP project, the Jackson Street Commons, that provides permanent, supportive housing for veterans and others.

“I am greatly honored to receive the Community Spirit Award from FHLBI,” Hickman said. “The real recognition for this award belongs to Jill Dunn and her great staff at Bona Vista, as well as their consultant, Angie Richards of Harmony Housing. I have had the honor to work on several projects with them over the last few years that have resulted in FHLBI AHP grants, and it is through these grant funds that housing has been created for dozens of developmentally challenged members of our community.”

Community First Bank of Indiana opened in 2003 as the first new bank chartered in Howard County in more than 55 years. Hickman, who started his finance and banking career in 1988, has been with the bank since its founding and has extensive community volunteer and service experience in Kokomo and Howard County, including Guardian Angels Hospice, Kokomo Main Street Association, and The Greatest Save.

“Community First was founded on the principal that a bank should be more than just a business that takes in deposits and lends money,” Hickman said. “We believe that through the time and efforts of our terrific staff and board of directors, we can help meet the needs of our community not only financially, but in far more meaningful ways. It is on behalf of our entire bank that I express my thanks for this recognition.”

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About the Community Spirit Award: FHLBI staff and its Affordable Housing Advisory Council select two Community Spirit Award recipients annually from among their nearly 400 member financial institutions, one in Michigan and one in Indiana, from nominations submitted by nonprofit organizations, for-profit housing developers or member institutions. The award recognizes efforts to revitalize local communities or increase the availability of quality affordable housing. The award is presented at each state’s respective annual housing conference. In addition to the award, FHLBI makes a donation in the recipient’s honor to a nonprofit organization or charity of their choice. The 2016 winner from Michigan was [Clint Todd of Community Shores Bank](#).

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The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (FHLBI) is one of 11 regional banks that make up the Federal Home Loan Bank System. FHLBanks are government-sponsored enterprises created by Congress to ensure access to low-cost funding for their member financial institutions. FHLBanks are privately capitalized and funded, and receive no Congressional appropriations. The FHLBI is owned by its Indiana and Michigan financial institution members, which include commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, and savings banks. For more information about the FHLBI, visit www.fhlbi.com.