



For Immediate Release

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IndyGo Provides Grant Support to Six Central Indiana Programs with FTA Funds

Public transportation provider also donated retired vehicles to Marion County non-profits

Indianapolis – With funds provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for eligible recipients through the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs, the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC, IndyGo) awarded nearly half a million dollars in financial support to Indianapolis non-profit organizations with unmet mobility needs in 2009. IndyGo was designated the recipient of these Federal program funds in 2007 by the State of Indiana and is responsible for grant administration and distributions in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

The FTA's JARC program provides funding to support eligible employment-related transportation services and activities for low-income individuals. The New Freedom program provides funding to support eligible transportation options, beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As part of a review committee comprised of INDOT, the Indianapolis MPO and CIRTA, IndyGo awarded JARC and New Freedom funds to the following six Central Indiana programs in 2009:

- **ACCESS Johnson County** received \$120,736 in New Freedom funds to support operation of employment connector service and taxi vouchers service (same day service) in Johnson County. This program provides transportation services to help people access employment and life-sustaining services for individuals with disabilities.
- **Family Service of Central Indiana** received \$36,930 in JARC operating assistance to provide continued support of their "Ways to Work" car loan program. This program helps low-income individuals acquire vehicles for accessing and sustaining employment. In return, loan recipients are required to proactively share their resource (car pool) with others (e.g. through registration with Central Indiana Commuter Services).
- **John Boner Community Center** was awarded \$52,240 in JARC capital and operating funds to support expansion of their Near Eastside Orbiter (NEO), a community circulator on the Indianapolis near eastside. Funds will allow for a second vehicle to be operated, providing bi-directional services and more timely and effective access to employment opportunities in the near eastside community as well as the rest of the city. The NEO connects with several IndyGo routes, supplementing citywide bus service in this community.
- **IndyGo** received \$177,288 in JARC operating funds to extend Route 8 service to the new Indianapolis International Airport. This is one of IndyGo's most heavily used routes, and it provides public transit service and options to more than 12,000 employees in and around the

airport area. Note: IPTC staff and administrative expenses are funded 100% from the JARC and New Freedom programs.

- **Exodus Refugee Immigration Center** was awarded \$38,400 in JARC capital assistance to help fund the acquisition of a 14 passenger mini-bus to provide transportation support to the hundreds of immigrants relocating to the city of Indianapolis. This project will facilitate self sufficiency for these families by providing transportation support to access employment, employment training and day care.
- **Indianapolis Resource Center for independent Living** received \$63,024 in New Freedom capital and operating assistance to help support acquisition and operation of an accessible bus providing alternative transportation support for current and potential disabled clients of IRCIL. Service will provide access to medical appointments, meetings and other community resources in Marion County and the surrounding counties.

In total, the JARC program awarded \$305,022 to Indianapolis organizations, and the New Freedom FTA Grant Program awarded \$183,760. All grants awarded will require local matching funds to be secured and provided by the grantee.

A balance of \$170,742 in JARC funds and \$151,491 in New Freedom funding remain available. These funds will be carried over for next year's program. A Call for Projects is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010.

IndyGo Donates Retired Open Door Paratransit Vehicles to Local Non-Profits

Earlier this year, when IndyGo replaced its fleet of Open Door paratransit vehicles—which had reached its useful life as defined by the FTA—27 of the retired buses were deemed appropriate for re-use in non-commercial capacities.

Instead of sending these accessible vehicles to a liquidation vendor to be auctioned, IndyGo developed an alternative disposal plan that helps to fill service gaps in Marion County. The plan enables not-for-profits serving at-risk populations (including the low-income, elderly and disabled members of the Indianapolis community) to provide critical transportation services to jobs and healthcare.

“The donation program is providing the best possible return on value for these retired vehicles,” explained Samantha Cross, Director of Business Development at IndyGo. “In exchange for potential funds generated from an auction, this program enables strong community organizations to provide bus service where IndyGo’s Fixed Route may be limited or unavailable. We are grateful for the supplementary service these groups can now provide to the community.”

In all, 27 vehicles were donated to 24 recipient organizations that had no or insufficient transportation resources to help individuals access employment and training, routine and essential healthcare, child and adult daycare, nutrition and/ or life-enhancing social services. IndyGo executive management team determined that priority would be given to groups located in Marion County and sanctioned as a Not-For-Profit agency or organization. A full list of recipients of IndyGo’s retired accessible paratransit vehicles is below:

- A-1 Health and Medical: *Medical transportation support for low income individuals*
- Alpha Home: *Senior and disabled housing (65 residents)*

- Augusta Christian Church Community Ministries: *Youth and elderly services*
- Christ Our Healer Ministries: *Family and single mother support and crisis intervention at area housing communities*
- Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI) Foster Grandparents Program: *Foster grandparents program (60 volunteers) and youth academy (120 kids)*
- Community Alliance for the Far Eastside (CAFÉ): *Multiservice center serving the far eastside community with senior, youth and job readiness programming*
- DPW-Indy Parks (3 buses): *Youth programming*
- Dr. Linda's Education Center: *Daycare for underprivileged youth*
- Edna Martin Center: *Providing senior services on the Indianapolis near eastside*
- Felege Hiywot Center: *Youth programming and mentoring (Martindale Brightwood area)*
- Forest Manor Multi-Service Center: *Multiservice center serving the eastside community with senior, youth and job readiness programming*
- Indianapolis Senior Citizens Center: *Transportation support for Indianapolis area senior citizens*
- Ivy Tech Community College: *Student transportation between campuses and parking areas*
- Jamison Camp: *Youth camp for disadvantaged youngsters*
- Martin Luther King Community Center: *Multiservice center serving mid-north community with senior, youth and job readiness programming*
- Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center: *Multiservice center serving the southwest side community with senior, youth and job readiness programming*
- Norwood Place Community: *Youth and senior services on the Indianapolis south eastside*
- St. Vincent Health (STAR Program): *Workforce development, health screenings and mentoring for at low income and risk individuals*
- St. Vincent New Hope: *Group home and supported living for developmentally disabled*
- Southeast Community Organization: *Multiservice center serving the southeast side community with senior, youth and job readiness programming*
- United North East Community Development Corporation: *Senior transportation @ Walnut Ridge Senior Apartments (104 Seniors)*
- Wailing Women Win: *Shelter and support programs for victims of domestic violence*
- Well-Care Services Home Care & Hospice: *Transportation assistance for families and patients of hospice care*
- Westside Community Ministries (2 buses): *Job readiness, job placement, and job access programming and services*

IndyGo continues to receive inquiries and request for vehicle donations as a result of this program. These requests are being kept on file for any future donations that become available.

IndyGo, the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, provides public bus transit services to residents and visitors throughout Marion County. With 29 Fixed Routes and a Flexible Services Department, which includes an ADA-compliant paratransit service, IndyGo is integral to the infrastructure of Indianapolis. The company provides an average of nine million trips per year to our city's workforce, students, seniors and visitors. Visit www.indygo.net or call 317-635-3344 for information and trip-planning assistance.

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