



Indiana Association of  
Cities and Towns

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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*"The Official Voice of Municipal Government in Indiana"*

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**Town of Walkerton Wins State Community Achievement Award**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) announced that the Town of Walkerton has been named a **2013 IACT Community Achievement Award** winner for its From Blight to Bright project. The Town of Walkerton will receive its award during the Annual Awards Luncheon, Monday, October 7, at the 2013 IACT Annual Conference & Exhibition in Indianapolis.

The town of Walkerton transformed the once run-down West York Neighborhood into Dogwood Estates. West York consisted of housing built by the federal government during WWII for people who worked at a nearby plant. The substandard "Plywood Village" was to be torn down at the end of the war. Left standing for decades, the neighborhood was a crime magnet and haven for disreputable landlords until 2009. The town received a \$3 M grant through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program which allowed them to take back West York. In less than three years, Walkerton's leadership built a coalition of public and private support that enabled them to: demolish 84 duplexes, build 40 new homes, with new roads, new utilities and high efficiency, and relocate the approximately 200 families who had lived in West York to better conditions.

IACT Executive Director and CEO Matt Greller said, "Creativity and determination are alive and well in Indiana's smaller communities. IACT is thrilled to honor this amazing project as a model for how municipal government leaders matter in the quality of life of Hoosier city and town residents."

In its 37<sup>th</sup> year, the IACT Annual Awards program, presented by Umbaugh, recognizes communities and individuals in municipal government for excellence and outstanding achievement. A nine-



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member panel of qualified judges selected this year's winners from a competitive field of nominees from around the state.

Media are welcome to attend the awards luncheon. Please notify Jennifer Simmons ([jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org](mailto:jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org)) at your earliest convenience to secure a media credential.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government, and is a member of the National League of Cities. Founded in 1891, IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country, with 470 cities and towns as members. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

Conference Facts:

2013 IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition

October 6-8, 2013

JW Marriott, Indianapolis

Attendance: 800 (pending final registration count)

Further information: [www.citiesandtowns.org](http://www.citiesandtowns.org)