

# NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of the Indiana Attorney General

IUPUI

SOLUTION CENTER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY—PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
INDIANAPOLIS

Nonprofit Solutions Initiative



SAVI  
Information for Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Indiana's leaders in public service partner to provide nonprofit organizations day of skill-building

*Capacity building conference designed to help nonprofits do more with less*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, Indiana University experts in philanthropy, partnerships, and community development and other professionals joined forces to present a conference today (October 12, 2010) in Indianapolis to help nonprofit organizations across Indiana survive and thrive in a challenging economic environment that threatens their ability to fulfill their important missions.

Information presented at the Indiana Nonprofit Capacity Building Conference and Indiana Achievement Awards was designed to help nonprofits:

- Prepare through more effective planning, program management, fundraising, and governance
- Measure impact by defining goals and measuring progress and successes
- Succeed by learning from real world strategies, solutions and success stories.

“Belt-tightening, boot-strapping and penny-pinching are familiar concepts to Indiana’s charitable organizations looking for ways to do more with less,” Zoeller said as he welcomed several hundred nonprofit professionals who gathered in Indianapolis with the shared goal of expanding and strengthening their capabilities during a weak economy.

The conference is a collaborative effort between hosts IUPUI Solution Center’s Nonprofit Solutions Initiative, the Indiana Attorney General’s office, and the SAVI Community Information System – created and managed by The Polis Center at IUPUI – and program partners Indiana Grantmakers Alliance, the United Way of Central Indiana’s Nonprofit Training Center, and The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. The conference partners bring a wide array of expertise to assist nonprofits. Conference attendees came from all corners of the state and represent hundreds of nonprofit organizations that serve millions of Hoosiers.

“With unemployment still high, nonprofits continue to keep up with a growing demand for their support and services despite a tough fundraising environment. It is remarkable how much they are able to accomplish, and the positive impact all of these organizations have on this state is immeasurable,” Zoeller said. “By informing nonprofits and charitable trusts of their legal responsibilities, we are empowering them to better serve the public, which is the goal of my office, as well.”

As the top consumer protection officer in the state, the Attorney General plays a unique role in seeing that nonprofits meet their legal responsibilities to donors and the public. Conference attendees had an opportunity to learn about the nonprofit oversight authority Indiana law assigns the Attorney General including examples of how and when these laws may be enforced.

According to Teresa Bennett, Director of the IUPUI Solution Center, “This conference will equip nonprofits with the knowledge and best practices they need to raise more funds, provide services more efficiently and effectively, and assess and share the impact of their work.”

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“Indiana’s approximately 54,000 nonprofits play a number of crucial roles in our state and communities,” said Patrick M. Rooney, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. “They provide vital services, from health care and education to shelter for the homeless, job training for the unemployed and food for the hungry, and they enrich our lives through arts, cultural and community organizations,” he added. Further, Rooney noted, nonprofits are a major employer in Indiana. About one in every 12 Hoosiers is employed by a nonprofit. Indiana’s tax exempt charities alone have about \$50 billion in gross receipts.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, a part of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, is a leading academic center dedicated to increasing the understanding of philanthropy and improving its practice worldwide through research, teaching, training and public affairs programs in philanthropy, fundraising, and management of nonprofit organizations.

Foundations have a role to play helping nonprofits through these tough times as well. Marie Beason, Manager of Educational Programs for the Indiana Grantmakers Alliance added, “Foundations have implemented innovative and creative ways to support nonprofits in the tough economy. As nonprofits themselves with investment portfolios closely tied to the economy, foundations have also been hit by the downturn and have looked for ways to effectively utilize their limited resources.”

Attendees also learned about SAVI, which provides nonprofits with a unique resource of data about communities to inform their decision-making processes from planning to implementation to evaluation.

“We are helping communities and nonprofits learn how they can use data to make more informed choices,” said Sharon Kandris, Director of Community Informatics of The Polis Center at IUPUI. “This resource helps nonprofits determine the most effective use of funding, understand community need, locate programs and target services based on those needs, and measure program effectiveness.”

The SAVI Community Information System is a program of The Polis Center in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. SAVI – the nation’s largest community information system of its type – is a one-stop source for data and information for Central Indiana communities and organizations. It provides local data about the social, economic, and physical conditions of neighborhoods, townships, and counties, and other geographic areas. SAVI summarizes these data into community profiles and allows users to view and analyze detailed data in interactive maps, charts, and tables. SAVI offers consulting and free training to nonprofits.

The event closed with the announcement of the five winners of the 2010 Indiana Achievement Awards (IAA), hosted by the IUPUI Solution Center. The Indiana Achievement Awards are a program that recognizes Indiana’s nonprofits for exemplary practices and demonstrated effectiveness. IAA winners contributed to the conference by sharing their success stories.

The IUPUI Solution Center is a coordinating unit with broad institutional responsibilities for collaborating with nonprofit, industry, and economic development leaders on behalf of IUPUI. As part of the IUPUI Solution Center, the Nonprofit Solutions Initiative (NPS) is an extension of IUPUI’s work in the community created specifically to address the unique needs of nonprofit organizations. NPS provides capacity-building programming; access to qualified and experienced consultants and university expertise; education and training; referrals to relevant community programming; and connections to IUPUI faculty, students, and funding.

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