

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**Headline:** Twenty-eight youth professionals from across Indiana are selected for The 2010 Executive Journey Fellowship

Twenty-eight executives from youth serving organizations from across Indiana have been selected for The 2010 Executive Journey Fellowship. In response to a growing need for ongoing professional and personal renewal in the field of youth work, the Journey Fellowship was created in 2002 by Leadership & Renewal Outfitters and funded by the Lilly Endowment. The Executive Journey Fellowship provides Indiana's youth workers greater opportunities to bring more meaning to their lives and make stronger commitments to the field of youth work.

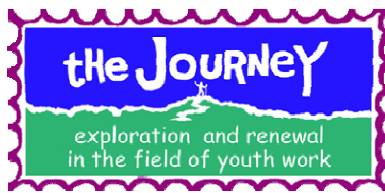
"This Fellowship is about renewing individuals which leads to renewing organizations and ultimately, to renewing the entire field of youth work," says Tom Plake, Journey Leader.

Each of the twenty-eight participants in the Journey Fellowship will attend a series of residential retreats designed to create new ways of thinking about and practicing youth work within existing systems and youth programs. Fellowship participants will be awarded individual renewal scholarships, and be supported to make a difference within their local organizations or communities.

So far, the Journey Fellowship has served more than 300 prospective and current youth workers (2003-2009) through this retreat-based format. Fellows are engaged in creating exploration and renewal opportunities throughout the state of Indiana. Countless other youth workers have been served through conference workshops, day-long seminars, and other types of renewal for staff and organizations within local communities facilitated by Journey Leaders.

"We know that youth workers play a vital role in the lives of young people. It has been documented in dozens of ways that youth who enjoy positive relationship with adults over time do better in life," explains Janet Wakefield, Journey Leader. "We also know that many people enter the profession because they 'want to make a difference' and they enjoy building positive relationships with young people. The Executive Journey Fellowship provides Indiana's youth workers greater opportunities to strengthen themselves as leaders and invest in their careers serving the young people of Indiana."

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*The Journey is pleased and honored to announce the 28 distinguished Indiana leaders in the field of youth development who have been nominated and selected to be the eighth class of The Journey Executive Fellowship.*

**Bloomfield**

**Terrie Decker**, Director, Department of Child Services of Greene County

**Bloomington**

**Sherri Benham**, Executive Director, Stepping Stones, Inc.  
**Christine McAfee**, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, Monroe County Government

**Carmel**

**Debbie Zipes**, Executive Director, Indiana Afterschool Network

**Columbus**

**Therese Miller**, Executive Director, Advocates for Children

**Delphi**

**Anne Hunte, LCSW**, Outpatient Branch Director, Wabash Valley Hospital

**Fort Wayne**

**Jill Parker**, Director of Career Services, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne  
**Martin Pastura**, CEO, YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne

**Indianapolis**

**Juana Watson**, Executive Director, Friends of Hidalgo  
**Julie Stewart**, Vice President, Children's Bureau, Inc.  
**Jackie Garvey**, Executive Director, Indiana Partnership Center  
**Jenny Wyrick**, Director, Professional Development Center, AYS, Inc.  
**Craig Wesley**, Regional Program Director, Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation  
**Ike Randolph**, Executive Director, Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
**Stephanie Yoder**, State Outreach Director, Indiana Youth Institute  
**Angela Green**, Deputy Director, Indiana Dept. of Child Services  
**Robert Marshall**, Director of Team Mentoring, 100 Black Men of Indiana

**Lafayette**

**Scott Angstadt**, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Tippecanoe County Probation Department

**LaPorte**

**Nancy Gettinger**, Juvenile Court Magistrate, LaPorte County Government

**Madison**

**Gina Freeman**, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson County

**Michigan City**

**Erika Stallworth**, Director, Juvenile Services Center

**Muncie**

**Micah Maxwell**, President, CEO, DiamondCrest Intl.

**Nappanee**

**Terry Bley**, Pastor of Life Development, Nappanee Missionary Church

**New Castle**

**Melanie Wright**, Director of Resident Services, Henry County Youth Center

**South Bend**

**Terry McBride**, Director, Michiana Youth Ministries

**Bonnie Strycker**, Director, Youth Services Bureau of St. Joseph County

**Terre Haute**

**Lana Frazier**, 4-H Youth Education Director, Purdue Extension in Vigo County

**Warsaw**

**Lynne Dittman**, Head Start/Early Head Start Director, Cardinal Services

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*The Journey is home to a variety of programs that seek to support the renewal and professionalization of youth workers in Indiana and around the country. To learn more, visit [www.thejourneyonline.org](http://www.thejourneyonline.org)*