



News Release: For Release Sept. 29, 2011, 2 p.m.

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## **League for the Blind and Disabled's Nominee Frances Ganaway receives Stewardship Award at Foellinger event**

Frances Ganaway, President of the Board of Directors of the League for the Blind and Disabled, was awarded the Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award at an event held Thursday at the Memorial Coliseum attended by more than 200 local leaders. Ganaway was among nominees from 27 nonprofits recognized for their board leadership on behalf of local nonprofit organizations. These volunteer leaders were honored for their excellence in leadership in this vital sector of Allen County.

According to the nomination, "Frances is a leader at the League for the Blind and Disabled in monitoring and strengthening programs, ensuring adequate financial resources, and building a competent board. Frances has help expand services to racially diverse populations, implemented major fundraising campaigns and special events, and introduced methods to select and train board members. This work will have a lasting impact by increasing services to minority populations, expanding the League's capacity to serve, and preparing the board to be successful as the agency grows and changes."

The League for the Blind and Disabled offers a number of unique programs and services in support of their mission and vision. These include: Individual and Systemic Advocacy Services, Information and Referral Services, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Support Services, Orientation and Mobility Training, Adaptive Equipment Services, Youth Services, Braille Services, Senior Blind Services, Volunteer Services, DeafLink, In-Home Care, and Community Support Services. The League's mission is to provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential. The League's vision is the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

This is the sixth year that the Foellinger Foundation has hosted the event to spotlight the exemplary work of board leaders who devote themselves to local nonprofits. "The award program has gained national attention for recognizing nonprofit leaders who volunteer their time and talent to lead organizations that greatly enhance our quality of life in Allen County," said Cheryl Taylor, Foellinger Foundation President. "We do this to showcase good people doing the right things and to encourage further excellence in nonprofit leadership. During difficult times, strong leadership becomes even more important. Leaders who demonstrate the will and the ability to take on the

challenge of fulfilling these organizations' missions and provide for their sustainability are prized assets for the Allen County community.”

The Rolfsen award brings with it a \$10,000 grant to the League for the Blind and Disabled for operating support, plus a \$7,500 grant for board governance training.

All of the nominated volunteer leaders have served on the boards of area nonprofit organizations. They were nominated by their peers for the Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award.

The annual award is named for Carl D. Rolfsen, who served on the Foellinger Foundation Board of Directors for 25 years, retiring from the board in 2005. He continues to serve on the Foundation's Investment & Finance Committee. Organizations had the opportunity to nominate a board member who exemplifies at least three of the Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, identified by BoardSource. BoardSource is a national organization that supports nonprofits by seeking to strengthen their boards of directors.

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About the Foellinger Foundation:

The Foellinger Foundation, Inc. is a private charitable foundation created in 1958 by Helene R. Foellinger, The News-Sentinel publisher from 1936 to 1980, and Esther A. Foellinger, her mother.