

## **Pathfinder Community Connections Receives over \$140,000 Grant from NeighborWorks America**

*Grant is a much-needed boost for Pathfinder Community Connections efforts*

**Huntington, IN**— Today Pathfinder Community Connections, a member of the national NeighborWorks® network, announced that it received \$142,500 in flexible grants from NeighborWorks® America, which will support Pathfinder Services affordable housing and community development activities through Home ownership education, foreclosure prevention and neighborhood engagement, at a time when communities need investment most.

“Pathfinder Community Connections will utilize the funds provided to continue to improve our foreclosure prevention services, as well as beefing up our neighborhood engagement programs in the counties we serve,” said Jan Baumgartner, director of Pathfinder Community Connections. “We are very thankful for the funding provided by NeighborWorks® America,” Baumgartner concluded.

In 2010, NeighborWorks America will provide over \$119 million in grants to its national network of more than 230 nonprofit organizations operating in over 4,400 rural, urban, and suburban communities, including Huntington County. The grants will be used to revitalize and strengthen communities by providing counseling for homeowners on the brink of foreclosure; increasing the number of certified foreclosure and homeownership counselors through training; stabilizing areas hard-hit by the foreclosure and economic crisis by putting vacant properties back into productive use; empowering consumers through financial and homeownership education and counseling; creating homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families; and producing and managing affordable, high-quality rental properties.

"For every dollar in NeighborWorks® grants, an additional \$35 is invested in America's communities, resulting in a direct investment of nearly \$4 billion in the areas served," said NeighborWorks® America CEO Ken Wade. "As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, NeighborWorks® ensures our investments are working in ways that truly make a difference."

The need for Pathfinder Community Connections has never been greater. With the increasing foreclosure and unemployment rates, coupled by a decrease in home values residents are increasingly more susceptible to, and affected by, foreclosure and the economic crisis.

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the Pathfinder Community Connections has had 212 participants in their foreclosure prevention workshops and over 427 households receiving assistance. Out of the 427 households assisted, 27 families have completed either a closed short sale or loan modification/forbearance. Additionally, since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 Pathfinder Community Connections has assisted 145 families in purchasing a home.

Pathfinder Community Connections is a member of the NeighborWorks network, which was created by NeighborWorks America to improve homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families, provide financial education and improve financial literacy, rebuild and repair properties; develop affordable multifamily units, and, use innovative strategies to improve safety and revitalize communities across the nation. Collectively, NeighborWorks

America and the NeighborWorks network have been able to:

- Invest nearly \$20 billion in America's urban, rural, and suburban communities;
- Create the nation's largest force of certified homeownership education counselors and foreclosure intervention counselors;
- Provide homeownership counseling to more than 500,000 families;
- Assist more than 80,000 families of modest means to achieve their dream of homeownership;
- Develop, own and manage over 73,000 affordable, high quality rental units;
- Rehabilitate more than 85,000 homes using state-of-the-art methods, including green and healthy building techniques;
- Invest in rebuilding efforts in hurricane-affected communities across the Gulf Coast; and
- Mobilize hundreds of thousands of volunteers to revitalize communities.

“We are grateful for the support from Congress and our other private, philanthropic and public funders who make our work possible. Although no one organization or sector can resolve the foreclosure crisis and re-stabilize communities, NeighborWorks America and the NeighborWorks network are making a significant contribution to this effort because of the support from Congress and our partners,” continued Wade.

For more information about Pathfinder Community Connections please contact Jan Baumgartner, (260) 356-0521, or at [jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org).

For more information about NeighborWorks America, please contact Erin Angell Collins, 202-220-6317, [ecollins@nw.org](mailto:ecollins@nw.org).

Pathfinder Community Connections is the community development division of Pathfinder Services and was created in 1997. Pathfinder Community Connections guides potential home buyers through the entire process of pre-purchase education, loan packaging, closing on the home, post purchase counseling, and when in need foreclosure prevention. Pathfinder Community Connections can be found online at [www.cchomes.org](http://www.cchomes.org) and has provided over \$9.7 million in down payment assistance to over 1,300 families since 1997.