

Pathfinder Community Connections Receives \$50,000 Grant from Wells Fargo to Revitalize Neighborhoods



(L to R) Alan Gunkel-Wells Fargo principal business banker and Priority Markets committee chair, Mary Bell-Wells Fargo Regional President for Indiana-Ohio, John Mignone- Chairperson of the Pathfinder Services Board of Directors, John Niederman-President of Pathfinder Services.

Pathfinder Community Connections received a grant for \$50,000 on Monday from Wells Fargo during a presentation at a property rehabilitated by Community Connections located at 446 East Creighton Avenue in Fort Wayne. The grant was made available through Wells Fargo's *Leading the Way Home* Priority Markets Initiative to help stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods.

Wells Fargo's *Leading the Way Home* Priority Markets Initiative provides grant support for neighborhood stabilization projects that are located in areas designated for revitalization to stimulate growth, stability and investment in distressed areas. The \$50,000 grant to Pathfinder Community Connections is part of \$5.53 million in grants recently awarded for 52 nonprofits and government entities with successful histories of building or renovating housing for low-to moderate-income homebuyers.

The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation has stewarded more than \$82 million and 4.5 million team member volunteer hours in support of creating affordable housing and community revitalization programs.

The \$50,000 grant was presented by Alan Gunkel, Wells Fargo principal business banker and Priority Markets committee chair, and Mary Bell, Wells Fargo Regional President for Indiana-Ohio to John Niederman- President of Pathfinder Services, John Mignone- Chairman of the Pathfinder Services Board of Directors, Trish Feightner- Fort Wayne Manager for Pathfinder Community Connections and Jeff Teusch- Rural Development Sales Manager for Pathfinder Community Connections. Rebecca Karcher- Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry's Director of Public Information and Chris Lepper- Project Manger City of Fort Wayne Community Development were also on hand at the event.

"We are extremely grateful for this grant from Wells Fargo Bank to allow us to revitalize and stabilize neighborhoods through appreciating property values in targeted Fort Wayne neighborhoods," stated Jan Baumgartner, Director of Pathfinder Community Connections. "These grant dollars will allow for Pathfinder Community Connections to assist families purchasing a home in the LaRez, Renaissance Pointe, and 46807 zip code neighborhoods in Fort Wayne. Additionally, grant dollars will allow for an increase in neighborhood home ownership and property investment through green real estate development, an increase in potential home buyers through effective credit rebuilding, and home buyer education for potential home owners," Baumgartner concluded.

“Wells Fargo has a long-standing relationship with Pathfinder Community Connections, and we’re proud to support their property revitalization and homeowner education efforts,” said Mary E. Bell, regional president for Wells Fargo in Indiana and Ohio. “In a challenging economy, grants like this one are essential to help strengthen our Fort Wayne neighborhoods.”

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 Fort Wayne office is located at 3326 South Calhoun Street Suite 102

across from South Side High School and can be reached at 866-892-0513. The Huntington office is located at 2824 Theater Avenue in Huntington and can be reached at 800-310-9510. Pathfinder Community Connections can be found online at www.cchomes.org.

About Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo provides financial services from 36 stores in Indiana and Ohio and employs more than 2,600 team members throughout the region. Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with \$1.3 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 stores, 12,000 ATMs, the Internet (wellsfargo.com and wachovia.com), and other distribution channels across North America and internationally. With more than 270,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in America. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 23 on *Fortune's* 2011 rankings of America's largest corporations. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all our customers' financial needs and help them succeed financially.