

Information Drives Community Change

Santa Cruz, California, Baltimore, Maryland, & Osceola County, Florida win top honors at the 2007 Community Indicator Innovator Awards, sponsored by the Urban Markets Initiative at the Brookings Institution

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

JACKSONVILLE, FA – March 9, 2007 – Community indicators are valuable tools for understanding and improving the quality of life. On Friday March 9, 2007 the Community Indicator Consortium awarded the Innovators its field who effectively used information to drive change in their communities. In accordance with this mission, the following winners were selected:

FIRST PLACE-The Santa Cruz County Assessment Project sponsored by the United Way of Santa Cruz County, California for its innovative work and the change it has inspired. In Santa Cruz, California, thousands of families were without regular access to doctors and medical care, but because of this catalytic data provided by Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project (CAP), a coalition has formed to support the Healthy Kids Health Plan covering 2227 children in December of 2006. "It's a real honor to be recognized by the Community Indicators Consortium. Over the last 13 years that we've been publishing the CAP (Community Assessment Project), we've come to know that people in the county will rally to make improvements when the information is clearly presented to them. When our residents saw the data about teen drug and alcohol abuse, childhood obesity and children who didn't have access to health care, the community stood up and took action!" said Mary Lou Goeke, the Executive Director of the United Way of Santa Cruz County.

SECOND PLACE-Baltimore CitiStat, an innovative program which uses data to improve government services and the quality of life of Baltimore citizens. From simple pothole repair and recycling to more complex issues, the CitiStat process harnesses the collective knowledge of its citizens to pinpoint problems and address them. "The success we have seen in creating a more efficient and effective city government due to the Mayor's Office of CitiStat is nothing less than revolutionary," said Mayor Dixon. "The question of whether a government can track and truly improve the delivery of services to citizens at every level has been answered in a dramatic way through the research, data management and accountability measures inherent in our CitiStat programming," she added. "We are very proud of the dedication, creativity and success of our CitiStat staff."

THIRD PLACE-Community Vision of Osceola County, Florida compiles information and statistics resulted in the publication of the Community Report Card. Its successes include an elected official summit in response to a low indicator of political cohesiveness, a "rolling doctor's office" called the Medical Mobile Express to address access to healthcare for the 44% of citizens who were uninsured and underinsured, and the

development of a youth center co-located with existing plans for a senior center to address youth wellbeing.

Honorable mentions were awarded to the **Family Connection Partnership, Inc.** in Georgia and the **Detroit Data Partnership**. The Family Connection Partnership was highlighted because of its vast network of indicators in all counties of the state, and the many local collaboratives that are improving grades, behavior and graduation rates. Unique data analysis by the Detroit Data Partnership helped to fund a lead enforcement initiative targeting landlords when they found correlations between poor student outcomes and standardized testing, and children living in areas with high proportion of lead poisoning cases.

“Without good data, information gaps obscure how we can improve our communities. In our information economy, we have the means and the power at our disposal to gather data about who we are and who we want to be to improve our lives,” said award sponsor Alyssa Stewart Lee, Acting Director of the Urban Markets Initiative at the Brookings Institution. These awards reward top innovators in community indicators, encourage others to use information to drive change, and highlight a relatively low cost opportunity to engender change for community activists and leaders.

About the Institutions

The Urban Markets Initiative (UMI) at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program was founded to support local efforts to find data and use it to create change. UMI addresses information gaps through its federal data agenda, which seeks to improve data published by the federal government, and its industry initiatives, which find data gaps affecting private market activity. UMI also funds several local market innovations, efforts to craft collaborative solutions to address both private and public issues. UMI is primarily funded by Living Cities Inc., an unprecedented collaboration between 15 foundations, financial institutions, government agencies, including the MacArthur Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, J.P. Morgan Chase, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, among others. Living Cities funds local developments and community development corporations as well as supporting legislation and initiatives that foster investment in cities.

The Community Indicator Consortium seeks to advance the art and science of community indicators and the exchange of knowledge through an active learning network and community of practice among persons interested or engaged in the field of community indicators development and application. In doing so, CIC encourages the development and facilitate the effective use of community indicators across the globe.

For more information:

The Urban Markets Initiative at The Brookings Institution
Alyssa Stewart Lee, Acting Director

Urban Markets Initiative
alee@brookings.edu
(202) 797-6312

Santa Cruz County Assessment Project
http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/cap_report.htm

United Way of Santa Cruz County
1220 41st Ave
Capitola, CA 95010

Susan Brutschy, President, Applied Survey Research
(831) 728-1356
susan@appliedsurveyresearch.org

Baltimore CitiStat
<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/news/citistat/index.html>

City of Baltimore, Mayor Sheila Dixon
Christopher Thomaskutty, Director of CitiStat
Mayor's Office, 6th Floor
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Christopher Thomaskutty
Chris.thomaskutty@baltimorecity.gov
(410) 396-4721

Community Vision of Osceola County, Florida
<http://www.communityvision.org/Documents/2006RepCard.pdf>

Community Vision
Donna Sines, Executive Director
(407) 933-0870
dsines@communityvision.org

Family Connection Partnership, Inc.
www.gafcp.org

Gayle Morris Smith, Executive Director
(404) 527-7394
gaye@gafp.org

Steve Erickson, Ph.D, Project Leader
(770) 394-0514

ericksoneval@att.net

Detroit Data Partnership

www.datadetroit.org

Brad Jensen, Project Manager

Detroit Data Partnership

City Connect Detroit

163 Madison Avenue

Detroit, MI 48226

(313) 963-9722

(313) 963-9723 (fax)

brad@cityconnectdetroit.org