



September 27, 2016
For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Allison Luthe 317-832-5379

MLK Center awarded \$75,000 to reduce crime among 17-24 year-olds in Mid-North area Neighborhoods

Indianapolis – The Martin Luther King Community Center received \$75,000 in crime prevention funds from the Central Indiana Community Foundation this week, to address issues of crime and safety in the mid-north area neighborhoods of Butler Tarkington and Crown Hill. The grant was awarded to the MLK Center because it serves one of the six Department of Public Safety focus areas, 34th and Illinois. The MLK Center also met other criteria of serving African American males, age 14 to 24, in high-crime areas.

“The grant funds will be used to expand and intensify our Neighborhood & Family Advocate project,” said MLK Center Executive Director, Allison Luthe, “to create a safe haven for teens and families to explore and discuss their roles in perpetration, victimization and prevention of crime. This is an unprecedented opportunity for the MLK Center and our partners.”

Indiana University Foundation also received \$75,000 for the Public Policy Institute to evaluate the MLK Center’s crime prevention activities, for a \$150,000 total investment directly into the neighborhood. The Peace Learning Center also received funding to bring their One Indy project to James Whitcomb Riley IPS School #43 in the neighborhood.

Activities will focus on a multi-generation approach to building community, and stabilizing the neighborhood block by block, resulting in reduced crime and increased safety and security. The Crime Prevention Advocates will connect parents, caregivers and family members to grief/loss counseling, mental health services, parenting supports, and the Center for Working Families (CWF) at MLK Center. The Public Policy Institute will also engage residents to understand statistics on neighborhood youth outcomes (including violence), family stability, and community trends. Data will be used to improve and develop neighborhood communication strategies and improve the overall perception and feelings of safety, security, and community connectedness.

For more information visit www.MLKCenterIndy.org or call (317) 923-4581.

###