

# Leadership Kokomo Program Graduates its Class of 2010

*From staff reports – December 4, 2010*

Fifteen community leaders graduated from the Leadership Kokomo program Thursday after completing the year-long development program.

The class included Polly Bray, city of Kokomo; Amber Dunning, Community First Bank; Mark Eaker, Security Federal Savings Bank; Daryl Kent Eaton, GM Components Holdings, LLC; Kyonna Fisher, Jefferson Road Animal Hospital; Susan Foust, St. Joseph/St. Vincent Hospital; Jeff Gegner, Indiana University Kokomo; Barbara Hall, Family Service Association; Stacy Handy, St. Joseph/St. Vincent Hospital; Marcia Julius, Coffee Junkiez; James Moulder, Ivy Tech Community College; TaiYanna Palmer, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana; Dr. Laurie Peters, Ivy Tech Community College; Kathy Rentschler, Kokomo Tribune; **Kathy Rogers, Hoosier Heartland Small Business Development Center.**

Leadership Kokomo includes a community awareness component intended to foster the knowledge and skills that help participants become community leaders. Community awareness is valuable to employers as well as both new and longtime Kokomo residents. Earlier in the year, class members rode with police officers, visited local industries and toured the Howard County Jail, the Kinsey Youth Center, both hospitals, and municipal and county offices.

The class also visited Inventrek Technology Park, local schools, colleges and universities, a courtroom and the Seiberling Museum. In addition to these activities, local and regional experts spoke with the class on topics such as economic and community development, leadership, communication and teamwork skills. In August, the class participated in a two-day retreat at the Tecumseh Leadership Center in Brookston.

One of the major components of the program is the team project, which requires each class member to work with a group of his or her classmates to assist a local nonprofit agency or organization. The teams were responsible for selecting a worthy agency for which they would raise funds, then developing and implementing a plan that would meet a need for that agency. This year the three project teams assisted Birthright, Samaritan Caregivers and the Kokomo Downtown Association.

Leadership Kokomo, now planning the 2011 class which is scheduled to begin in January, is co-administered by Ivy Tech Community College and the Kokomo/Howard County Chamber of Commerce, with financial support from the City of Kokomo. For more information or to be a member of the Leadership Kokomo Class of 2011, contact Kathy Hagenow at Ivy Tech Community College at 765-459-0561, ext. 384 or [mhagenow@ivytech.edu](mailto:mhagenow@ivytech.edu). Applications are available online by clicking the LK application materials link on the Ivy Tech Kokomo Region home page, [www.ivytech.edu/kokomo](http://www.ivytech.edu/kokomo).