



LEADERSHIP VENTURES

# Indy ONboard

## Board Prospectus

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September 26, 2007

### Organization

#### **Trusted Partners**

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Jeri Warner, Executive Director

Board Chair: Rick Monroe

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### Purpose of the Organization

**Mission:** Trusted Partners prevents homelessness by providing trained mentors to individuals that have been recently housed and referred by a homeless prevention agency. These person-to-person mentoring relationships empower, educate, and provide life skills, hope, and on-going support in order to help people remain housed and improve the quality of their lives.

**Brief History:** Trusted Partners was started 2003 by the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP). Jeri Warner was hired by CHIP on contract to develop a mentoring program in support of the Blueprint to End Homelessness. Shortly thereafter, Immanuel United Church of Christ (Immanuel) offered Trusted Partners a "home." When it became a "program" of Immanuel, Trusted Partners was given access to office space, insurance and Immanuel's 501(C)3 designation.

In its first year, Trusted Partners developed an advisory board and a training manual, and started matching mentors and mentees. Nine of its first mentors were from Immanuel. Mentees came through a variety of places, including referrals from social services agencies where Jeri and the board developed relationships. Approximately 15 matches were made in the first year.

**Present/Future:** Today, an increasing number of social services agencies refer individuals and families who were formerly homeless or at risk of being homeless to Trusted Partners for mentoring. All participants are housed at the time they accept a mentor. The referring agencies find it easier to outsource the mentoring component than to run their own in-house



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mentoring programs. Mentors are recruited online and through newspapers and volunteer fairs.

Approximately 20 matches were made each year for the past two years. Trusted Partners set a goal of 28 matches for 2007 and has already made 12 as of the date of this report. This growth is attributed to the work that was done in past years to form relationships with referral agencies; the efforts of a new volunteer coordinator; and increasing awareness in the Indianapolis community of Trusted Partners successes.

Approximately 70 percent of mentees have remained housed<sup>1</sup> while in the program and 2 out of 3 mentor/mentee relationships have lasted 6 to 12 months.

**Trusted Partner's Vision Statement:** Trusted Partners is a community based, fiscally sound and broadly supported non-profit agency that serves as a national model to prevent homelessness. By providing trained mentors for homeless prevention agencies, we support and empower individuals and families toward self-sufficiency.

One of the organization's biggest challenges is getting more exposure to help with mentor recruiting and fund raising. Growth of the program has meant that Trusted Partners is outgrowing the office space available at Immanuel UCC.

**Board:** The board will be fully functioning by 2008. A Board Structure and Strategic Plan was completed in July, 2007, establishing the goal of developing an independent 502(c)3 and moving into larger office space.

**Volunteers:** Add 28 new mentors in 2007; train and match.

**Communications:** Create marketing materials to increase solicitation of donations and volunteers.

**Fundraising:** Goal is \$150,000 in new funding in 2008

### Size and Scope of the Organization

**Annual Budget:** \$130,000

**Major revenue sources:** 75% foundations; 10% corporations; 10% other; 5% major donors

**Major expense categories:** salaries, marketing, programs

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<sup>1</sup> Trusted Partners defines "housed" as not living on the street or in a shelter.

**Staff:** 2 paid employees; 30-50 volunteers on average  
**Office space:** donated by Immanuel

### **The Programs**

**Mentoring:** Every prospective mentor must attend an initial three- to four-hour training and have a follow-up interview prior to matching. Two goals are established when the match is made. The first is the same for all mentor/mentee pairs: Establish a relationship of trust. The second is determined by the mentee. An example might be to learn a life skill such as budgeting.

Pairs are asked to meet face-to-face at least twice per month and connect via phone six more hours each month. Trusted Partners coordinates quarterly recognition evenings for mentors and mentees. Mentor Roundtables are held three times each year to provide a place for conversation and support. Trusted Partners provides additional helpful information to mentors at recognition nights and via email. Mentors submit monthly reports so that the progress of the relationships and goals can be tracked.

### **The Present Board**

11 board members (20 maximum stated in by-laws; seeking to add up to 5 more to bring total to 16.)  
4 board meetings per year plus committee meetings  
Committees: Development/Marketing, Planning, Finance, Governance

**Looking to the Future**

Trusted Partners is seeking additional board members to (1) allow the shifting of oversight of the administration of the organization from the executive director to the board; (2) help achieve the short-term goals mentioned on page one of this report; and (3) help determine the future direction of the organization.

**New Members Being Sought**

In general, Trusted Partners wants all board members to be passionate about the issue of homelessness in Indianapolis. Trusted Partners also needs board members to be flexible, adaptable, and open to new approaches in a young organization.

Specifically, Trusted Partners is looking for new members who have skills and experience in finance/accounting/, marketing, public relations and special event planning. Trusted Partners also seeks persons with personal and professional networks that encompass the Indianapolis corporate community. Finally, someone who has experience providing leadership to an organization that transitioned from "infancy" to "adolescence" would be helpful.

**Board Responsibilities**

All board members must attend two of the four board meetings each year; personally make financial or in-kind donations; serve on a committee and advocate for the program.

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