



**For Immediate Release**  
Date: December 17, 2015  
Contact: Jennifer Mason Evans  
Phone: 812.746.8933

## Media Release

### Documentary to be filmed for Jacobsville neighborhood

*Evansville, Indiana* - ECHO Housing Corporation's Jacobsville Join In, a community development effort commissioned by the City of Evansville in 2011 and recipient of a \$600,000 award for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program by the Office of Justice Programs in 2013, received a \$3,500 Communications Grant Award from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to hire a production consultant to make a short docu-series about the Jacobsville neighborhood's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) project's goals and accomplishments. The funding originates from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the division of the U.S. Department of Justice which oversees BCJI, a comprehensive crime reduction initiative now underway in 60 cities across the United States.

The Jacobsville Join In initiative originated from increasing resident involvement in planning improvement strategies by connecting fragmented efforts to support community and build a high quality of life through organized techniques, including intentional listening, neighborhood visioning, community engagement, and early actions. The series of documentary videos will highlight neighborhood leaders involved in Jacobsville redevelopment, focusing on crime reduction and prevention, community engagement, and infrastructure projects. The series will capture resident and stakeholder stories of community collaboration in their efforts to improve the quality of life in Jacobsville.

LISC awarded the grant to ECHO's Jacobsville Join In initiative to help document the BCJI work in Jacobsville. "The BCJI work happening in sites around the country is impressive," said Julia Ryan, director of LISC's safety program. "We want to help sites share their stories to highlight the real gains in safety and community-police trust that can be achieved by this kind of collaborative approach. This kind of video can also help others learn about what it takes to bring residents, police and other partners together to examine problems and implement realistic solutions."

Jacobsville Join In Community Mobilizer and BCJI Project Manager, Jennifer Mason Evans, expects the series to aid the Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance project by:

- Expanding awareness and organization of community resources;
- Improving perceptions and sense of fear regarding crime; and
- Increasing neighborhood pride, social bonding and cohesiveness.

"Creating professionally produced documentaries that share the collective experiences in the "Join In" process adds an innovative layer to strengthen neighborhood bonds and commitment" said Evans.



Blackstrap Media, Evansville, Indiana, will film the series. Kevin Chenault with Blackstrap Media says, "We are very excited to work with the Jacobsville Join In initiative with the shared goal of creating a series of high quality videos that showcase Jacobsville as a neighborhood with a lot of positive community engagement."

###