Winning Communities Testimonials:

"Just as no business should be without a plan - no community should be without a strategic plan. The Winning Communities initiative in our county has provided the impetus for a number of community and countywide projects."

Travis Holdman, President and CEO
Markle Bank, Huntington County, Indiana

"The Winning Communities program has injected a new spirit of 'can do' attitudes in our community. We have seen a renewal of enthusiasm and cooperation among a wide cross-section of our population that is very encouraging. Through this process we have been able to identify areas needing improvement, and put a plan of action together to address those areas in the next few years."

Ted Leas, President
Pacesetter Bank, Hartford City, Indiana

"It is truly a great feeling to see that 'Certified Winning Community' sign when entering a town or county, knowing that the local people in that community have come together to accomplish their collective vision of what they want their community to become in the future."

Joe DeHaven, President
Community Bankers Association of Indiana

Your Community Planning Partner

Jim Dittoe, founder & president of Winning Communities, Inc.

Winning Communities is your partner in progress as we facilitate the entire community vision and action planning process. Winning Communities is a community planning consulting company that has helped create community vision and action plans for cities, towns and counties since 1994. Jim Dittoe, founder and president of Winning Communities, has more than 35 years of experience leading chambers of commerce and economic development projects throughout the country. He established the Winning Communities certification program in 2004 for communities dedicated to achieving a successful future.

Become a Winning Community
Contact Winning Communities to learn more about your Community can become a Certified Winning Community, and to sign up for the Winning Communities *Inspiring Action* eNewsletter.

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Building and Achieving Your Community Vision

Winning Communities™

Make your Community a
Certified Winning Community™

Endorsed by the Community Bankers Association of Indiana

www.winningcommunities.com

Does your community have a shared vision and action plan for positive change and growth?

A new program called the Certified Winning Community program can help your community develop a strong vision and strategy for the future, and can ensure that your vision and action plan will not sit on a shelf. This program, created by community planning consulting firm Winning Communities, Inc., has been supported by many state and local organizations and has been formally endorsed by the Community Bankers Association of Indiana (CBAI).

Why Become a Certified Winning Community?

The cities, towns and counties that embark upon this unique certification process can gain tremendously from the experience. The program helps to:

- Brand the community in a positive way
- Develop community pride and involvement
- Encourage community leadership
- Create positive relationships among community leaders and citizens
- Provide a shared community vision and plan for the future
- Address issues important to the community's development and prosperity
- Provide an economic stimulus for growth and change
- Ensure the commmunity achieves the goals outlined in the vision and action plan
- Assist communities in achieving funding for community development projects

13 Steps to Becoming a Certified Winning Community

Becoming a Certified Winning Community not only requires commitment and participation, it requires action. The 13 action steps below outline the process of becoming a Certified Winning Community, based on a 100-point system.

1. Form Winning Communities Task Force/Review Existing Plans (5 pts)
2. Coordinate First Community Meeting (2 pts)
3. Media and Public Announcements (3 pts)
4. First Community Planning Meeting (5 pts)
5. Establish Goal Areas of Opportunity (5 pts)
6. Complete Interviews/Focus Groups (5 pts)
7. Second Community Meeting/Set Objectives (10 pts)
8. Community Retreat (15 pts)
9. Establish Goal Area Action Teams for Implementation (10 pts)
10. Goal Area Action Teams Establish Short-Term Objectives (5 pts)
11. Finalize Action Plan/Final Community Meeting/Community Declares Commitment (10 pts)
12. Winning Communities Committee Established (10 pts)
13. Winning Communities Committee Progress Reports (15 pts)

Total: 100 points — The Public Announcement of the Certified Winning Community plaque and ceremony follows the community's successful completion of all 100 points listed above.

Community Commitment and Participation

There is no competition for the Certified Winning Community designation. The Winning Communities certification process is open to any city, town or county that desires and makes a commitment to change. However, to become a Winning Community, that community must have widespread participation and dedication among its business leaders, organizations and citizens in order to ensure success.

Members of Huntington County Indiana Winning Communities leadership team show off their Certified Winning Community banner.