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Shuster Congratulates Indiana County for being named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America

Washington, D.C. - **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to congratulate the people and the government of Indiana County for being named one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* by America's Promise Alliance.

The 2008 *100 Best Communities for Young People (100 Best)* competition is organized by America's Promise Alliance and Capitol One. According to the America's Promise Alliance website, the objective of the competition is to recognize "outstanding community-wide efforts that improve the well-being of youth. The competition also inspires other localities to take action to ensure they're meeting the challenges facing their young people."

The review board took special notice of Indiana County's creation of a Children's Advisory Commission to assess the needs of the children and youth of the county and create positive after school activities. The annual Family Fun Fest was also noticed for its ability to connect parents and youth in a way that strengthens the family bond and promotes positive behavior.

"I congratulate the people of Indiana County and their government for creating an environment where young people can thrive," Shuster said. "By winning this year's competition, Indiana County will not only gain national exposure, but the opportunity to apply for grants from America's Promise to make their communities even better. This is a great win for Indiana County."

Patti Simmons, Executive Director of the County's United Way, is thrilled that Indiana County was selected for the award. "I felt sure we would be recognized, because of the many positive things we offer for the youth of our county", she said.

All communities that completed entries in the *100 Best* competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by America's Promise as being critical to the development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others; to their young people.

Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community come together to deliver the Five Promises and specific efforts and programs developed to ensure that their young people graduate from high school prepared for college and/or the workforce. Each of these

communities, regardless of whether they were selected as a winner, will be eligible to apply for \$300,000 in grants from the Alliance next month.

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