

Marion County Prosecutor's Office



Ryan Mears, Prosecutor

   @MCProsecutors

 mcpo@indy.gov

Media Release:
August 3, 2021

Contact:
Michael Leffler, Michael.Leffler@indy.gov
Jenna Slesinski, jslesinski@mtchbk.com
317-210-0043

Horizon House named Prosecutor's 2021 Crime Fighter of the Year

Horizon House's work helping those experiencing homelessness find basic services, housing, and stability stands out among many impactful organizations

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Horizon House has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Marion County Prosecutor's Office Crime Fighter of the Year. Prosecutor Mears presented this award to Horizon House during the Crime Fighter of the Year Ceremony in conjunction with the kick-off for the annual National Night Out hosted by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Prosecutor Mears stated that Horizon House was selected due to their commitment to helping homeless members of the community to have their fundamental needs met and for setting them on a better, safer path.

"Horizon House's impact in the Indianapolis community deserves to be recognized. It will take a community solution to address homelessness, and with the help of organizations like Horizon House, we can take the necessary steps to get our most vulnerable neighbors the resources they need," Prosecutor Mears stated. "We are proud to award an organization that shares our vision of safety and stability for the future of Indianapolis."

Horizon House has worked closely with the prosecutor's office's Quality of Life Unit providing individualized plans for those experiencing housing instability and are involved in the criminal justice system. Through this partnership, Horizon House and the prosecutor's office have been able to provide housing and other job-readiness resources to meet their legal obligations, reduce recidivism and offer a successful future.

Under the leadership of Board President Lori Gooding and Executive Director Teresa Wessel, in 2020 Horizon House served 5,631 individuals with access to meals, laundry, and much more. Horizon House serves everyone in the community and its commitment to diversity is demonstrated by the people they serve, helping individuals of all ages, races, and genders.

"We are very thankful for this honor and our ongoing collaboration," said Wessel. "As part of this honor, we will add a technical assistance project with the Prosecutor's Office to address racial disparities in the criminal legal system."

"It is our genuine pleasure each year to highlight organizations like Horizon House who are contributing to the success of residents and improving public safety in our community," stated Prosecutor Mears. "Our office looks forward to working alongside Horizon House to continue serving our community by supporting our homeless neighbors and helping them achieve long-term self-sufficiency."

About Horizon House

Horizon House is Central Indiana's trusted leader and champion for supporting homeless neighbors to achieve long-term self-sufficiency. The nonprofit is a full-service agency and connects homeless neighbors with integrated, comprehensive services to provide help, hope and housing opportunities. Horizon House offers a safe place and basic services for the Indianapolis homeless community, serving them with dignity and respect as they take steps towards a more stable life. Visit www.horizonhouse.cc to learn more.

Photo caption: The Marion County Prosecutor's Office's Quality of Life Unit stands with Horizon House's Development Director Marcie Luhigo (third from left), Executive Director Teresa Wessel (second from left) and Prosecutor Ryan Mears.