

## 'Piece of gold' honored for her volunteerism

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### Document Text

From 14 nominees, a woman who works on a number of Delphi and Carroll County projects was presented the 2009 Crystal Bison Award for Volunteerism.

With more than 100 people in attendance, Anita Werling received the award Tuesday evening during a reception at Bison Financial Group headquarters in Lafayette.

"I'm really surprised," said Werling, chairwoman of the Delphi Preservation Society's Opera House Advisory Board. "Listening to all the nominees, it's very humbling to be selected."

Randy Strasser, the mayor of Delphi, was at the event and said Werling also works closely with other organizations.

"She is a genuine piece of gold for us in Delphi. She is one of two people that helped rewrite the comprehensive land use plan for the county," Strasser said. "She's part of a group that put the new county Web portal together.

"She works tirelessly and behind the scenes, so it's fitting that she be recognized."

Previous recipients of the award were judges for this year's award: Rev. Don Nead, Dr. Jack Kelley and Jane Boswell.

Werling received a crystal bison statuette and \$500 to donate to the Delphi Preservation Society.

"I only have one pair of hands," Werling said. "But volunteers bring thousands of hands, I'm very honored."

Also at the event, Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski and West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis issued a proclamation that makes March Volunteerism Month in the two cities.

"We need more people to volunteer, especially right now with the economy the way it is," said Dennis. "We need more volunteers."

Tuesday's award and proclamation are part of Bison's annual encouragement and enrichment for numerous local not-for-profit groups.

Bison created the Vibrant Community Program to provide financial support and volunteer time and services to organizations that promote the arts, educate the community and aid those in need.

Last year, grants from the fund totaled more than \$60,000.

"As a company of people, we have dedicated ourselves to being a full and participating member of not only the business community but the community of people where we live," said Bison Financial Group managing director Dave Vorbeck.

"It is the goal of the Vibrant Community Program to work with community organizations helping them leverage Bison's resources, staff and talent to meaningfully enhance their programming."

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

Bison created the Vibrant Community Program to provide financial support and volunteer time and services to organizations that promote the arts, educate the community and aid those in need.

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