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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALPARAISO NAMED INDIANA CHAMBER'S COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

Rex Richards, President of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, is proud to announce that the Indiana Chamber of Commerce has named the City of Valparaiso as the "Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Community of the Year."

This high honor will be awarded at the Indiana Chamber's 20th Annual Awards Dinner on November 10 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis in front of an audience of over 1,200 business leaders from around the state.

"Mayor Jon Costas and other community and business leaders have emphasized infrastructure improvements and taken advantage of many benefits of working closely together," states Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar. "Valparaiso is not only a regional destination in Northwest Indiana, but a shining example for all through the state about what can be accomplished through proactive leadership and action."

This award is open to all Indiana Communities. The Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce nominated Valparaiso for this coveted award. The main items in the nomination included the following key components:

- Forty million dollar in public investments since 2004, including more than \$32 million in state and federal grants
- Building a pipeline of nearly \$700 million in new private investment into the Valparaiso community from 2006 through 2012
- Redevelopment of a five-block downtown area and two key corridors leading into the city
- Valparaiso's diverse economic base including the planned additions of two medical facilities as well as the strong factor of an ever growing Valparaiso University with the new Harre Union and the new \$40 million campus of Ivy Tech Community College

Richards further noted that this is the first time in over 20 years that a community in either Lake or Porter County has ever received the award.