

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Broadband Connectivity Reaches St. Vincent Williamsport Hospital

Williamsport, Indiana – July 8, 2011 -- Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) is pleased to announce a new participant in the Indiana Telehealth Network (ITN). ITN is a collaboration between IRHA and its member institutions, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) and the Indiana Telecommunications Association (ITA). The ITN is funded through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC RHCPP), administered by USAC.

St. Vincent Williamsport Hospital, located in Williamsport, IN, has chosen to partner with Indiana Fiber Network for their participation in the Indiana Telehealth Network. Construction of approximately 24 miles of fiber optic cabling under the Wabash River and to the hospital will begin in the coming weeks. Construction will be completed by the end of 2011. This project will bring broadband connectivity, not only to St. Vincent Williamsport Hospital, but also creates a connection hub in Warren County.

Kelly Dyer, CEO of Indiana Fiber Network, states, "We are looking forward to working with community leaders in Warren County to help promote the availability of the fiber optic assets and to market the excess capacity to potential users." In order to accomplish these goals, the efforts of Steve Eberly, Director of Warren County Local Economic Development, and Warren County Government are to be commended for all the time, effort and resources utilized to make this happen. "Realizing the potential big picture benefit for Warren and surrounding counties has been a rewarding process. Without the tremendous cooperation between units of government from Warren, Fountain, and Benton counties, the project could never have happened. Our next big task is to continue this momentum and proactively recruit additional partners to grow extensions from this pipeline," said Steve Eberly. Don Kelso, Executive Director of IRHA added, "The groundwork for this project was laid back in the spring of 2007. It is very exciting to see our plans for this project come to fruition with the public/private partnerships that are being formed in Warren County and throughout the rest of the state of Indiana."

Indiana Fiber Network, LLC (IFN) was formed in March of 2002, whose ownership is comprised by twenty local exchange telephone companies throughout the state. They offer data center, Internet backbone, and data transport services over state-of-the-art Ethernet, CDWM, DWDM, and SONET fiber networks, with service in the State of Indiana and throughout the US via a network of national carrier partners. For more information, please visit IFN's website at www.ifncom.net or call 317-280-4636.

IRHA is a not-for-profit entity, subsidized by grants through the federal government, which provides various programs to critical access and rural hospitals throughout Indiana. One such program is the ITN. There are currently 24 hospitals around the state participating in the ITN. The mission of the ITN is to improve the health and well-being of Indiana residents, particularly those in rural areas, through the utilization of a dedicated broadband health network to deliver telehealth applications including, but not limited to, telemedicine, health information exchange, distance education and training, public health surveillance, emergency preparedness and trauma system development. More information on the ITN can be found on the IRHA website at www.indianaruralhealth.org under Programs/Indiana Telehealth Network.

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