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Communities Investing in Families Receives National Award

Communities Investing in Families recently received a 2007 National Performance Award and \$3,500 from Ways to Work Inc. The award recognizes the organization's exceptional performance, particularly in new loan production and successful management of a loan portfolio. The award was presented at the Ninth Annual Ways to Work Institute held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ways to Work is a federally certified Community Development Financial Institution based in Milwaukee. Through a network of loan offices across the country, the program provides small, short-term, low-interest loans to low-income working poor families with challenging credit histories. One of the program's goals is to move families towards economic self-sufficiency by helping them buy reliable modestly-priced used vehicles. The cars are intended to increase job security and move people forward in their careers by giving them access to better paying jobs. Ways to Work is viewed as an alternative to predatory lenders for people with a demonstrated commitment to achieving increased self-sufficiency.

Communities Investing in Families has been a Ways to Work program provider since June 2004 in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine Counties. Kerry Fridstrom is the program's coordinator. Anyone interested in learning more about this program can contact Kerry at 763-552-1961, toll free at 1-888-615-1384 or by email at kerryfridstrom@msn.com.



Jeffrey Faulkner (left) and Kevin Stewart (right), shown presenting the 2007 Ways to Work National Performance Award to Kerry Fridstrom, Communities Investing in Families program coordinator.