

Smithville™

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Smithville makes largest capital contribution to Indiana University Women's Basketball in history

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (September 22, 2008)—Smithville, Indiana's largest privately owned telecommunications company, has made a \$250,000 capital contribution to Indiana University Women's Basketball. The gift was made in support of the IU athletics campaign, *For the Glory of Old IU: The Campaign for IU Athletics*, to enhance student-athlete welfare at the university.

Darby McCarty, president of Smithville and an avid fan of IU women's basketball, serves on the Campaign Steering Committee. Smithville, with the Earles and McCarty families, have been donors to the Varsity Club for 40 years and season football and men's basketball ticket holders for over 30 years.

"Darby McCarty has set the tone for women's basketball here at Indiana University. With her contribution of \$250,000 to Indiana University Athletics Capital Campaign and our Women's Basketball program, she has become our most generous donor in history," said IU Women's Basketball Head Coach Felisha Legette-Jack. "The old cliché is, 'if you build it, they will come.' Well, Darby McCarty fully understands our vision and stepped up and said, 'I will help you build it!' She has embraced me from the beginning and stands with us as we embark on greatness. I am deeply touched, honored and humbled by her support. She exemplifies what one considers a phenomenal woman."

The over-arching goal of this campaign is to raise \$80 million in private support for critical facility projects as well as student athletes' scholarships. This campaign is the first comprehensive campaign in Indiana University history.

The Smithville contribution supports a major addition in IU athletics, The Basketball Development Center, which was designed by HOK Sport of Kansas City and is to be completed in August 2009. Once constructed, the facility will be a 67,000 square foot state of the art facility and will serve as the daily headquarters for Indiana men's and women's basketball programs. It will feature two regulation-sized practice courts, coaches' offices, locker rooms, meeting/video rooms, and shared strength-development and training areas. Additionally, it will feature a Legacy Court Lobby that celebrates the championship tradition of Indiana Basketball.

“We are very appreciative that Darby and Smithville have committed to a leadership gift for Indiana women’s basketball in our campaign.” Scott Dolson, Associate Athletic Director for Development and IU Varsity Club Director said. “They are true friends who have been strong and steadfast in their support for decades.”

In recognition of the largest capital gift given in the history of Indiana University Women’s Basketball, IU Athletics will permanently name the Women’s Basketball Conference Room in the Basketball Development Center after Smithville.

“Our continued support and the support from many other dedicated fans of IU athletics will help ensure its stability. Athletics are a core component of Indiana University and its continued history is important to us,” said McCarty. This contribution will help IU athletes reach their goals, fulfill their potential, and continue to create Hoosier legacies.”

About Smithville

Smithville Telephone Company was founded in 1922 and has since grown to be Indiana’s largest independent telecom company. Now named Smithville, the company has expanded its services to include Smithville Digital as well as DSL services. The headquarters are located in Ellettsville, Ind. For more information please visit www.smithville.net.