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## EMBERWOOD CENTER ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OFFICERS AND NEW WEB SITE LAUNCH IN JULY

A new slate of officers have taken the helm of the board of directors of EmberWood Center, formerly known as Community Addiction Services of Indiana, or CASI. Officers elected during the organization's annual meeting on June 24 include Billy W. White, Jr., chair; Mary Lett, vice chair; Shaun K. Hawkins, treasurer; and, Samantha Meadows, secretary. All four have served on the Center's board previously.

"As EmberWood Center celebrates 30 years of nonprofit service to the community, 2009 has been a busy year of change," said Chair Billy White. "We are completing strategic capacity-building and re-branding projects begun in 2007 and implementing a new strategic plan. On September 4, EmberWood Center will launch the first-ever Indianapolis art gallery show, in conjunction with Harrison Center for the Arts, to decrease the stigma associated with addiction. The show, entitled *Myths of Addiction*, is intended to build awareness and support about a condition that affects many people in all walks of life."

In other news, EmberWood Center's new website (<<[www.emberwoodcenter.org](http://www.emberwoodcenter.org)>>) went live on Wednesday, July 8. The grant-funded marketing and rebranding process, including website development, was led by Indianapolis-based Hotbed Creative.

White attended Ball State University and has worked in marketing for Indiana Repertory Theater, Chicago-based Recycled Paper Greetings, and most recently in retail sales management for Sony, Hewlett-Packard Retail Photo Solutions, and Panasonic. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Grande Masquerade Ball, benefiting the Damien Center, board member and Secretary of the Interfaith Coalition on Non-Discrimination, and board member and Secretary of the Social Health Association of Indiana, Inc. Currently White is a freelance consultant working with emerging small business owners.

Mary Lett has a bachelors degree in Social Work and a master's in Public Administration from Indiana University. She worked at the Christamore House for eight years before starting her own accounting firm, M M Lett, which splits its services between nonprofit clients and small businesses. She is on the board of the Social Health Association of Indiana and participates in a number of community activities.

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Shaun Hawkins is director of private equity ventures at Eli Lilly and Company. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). He received his Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Hawkins has worked with several community organizations, including Board of Director roles with EmberWood Center and the Liberian Humanitarian Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the Board of two Indianapolis for-profit companies, biopharmaceutical firm, ImmuneWorks, Inc. and CornerStone Diabetes & Medical Supplies.

Samantha Meadows has a masters degree in social work from the Indiana University School of Social Work. She works in behavioral health care in Bloomington, Ind. and continues to be involved in the study of and service to the addictions field.

Also serving on the board are: John Brandon, McCOY Inc.; Dracina Will, Indiana University School of Medicine student; Douglas Grasso, Eli Lilly and Company; Matthew Dean, Accenture; Christi Minars, Keystone, Keystone Construction Corp., Scott Long, Huntington Bank; Kirsten Ess, Marion County Public Defender Agency; and, Laura Flanagan, Eli Lilly and Company.

“In the past year, we have doubled the size of our board,” said Vincent G. Failla, President of EmberWood Center. “This group is extremely dedicated and engaged in the capacity-building process and is leading our organization through a strong growth phase. With their support and guidance, we will be able to extend our reach beyond the near eastside of Indianapolis and the more than 400 clients we serve annually.”

EmberWood Center promotes growth, respect and integrity through community-based services to address the cycle of addiction with individuals and families.