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For immediate release

Wayne County Executive receives two awards this week

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Wayne County– The Wayne County Executive's Office today announced that County Executive Robert Ficano was honored last night with both the Lifetime Achievement award at the annual Life Directions Tribute Event, and the 2009 Corporate Commitment to Michigan (2CMICHIGAN) Award by Midwest Technology Leaders. Executive Ficano was acknowledged for his innovation, dedication, excellence, and action as a leader in the community.

The annual Life Directions Tribute Event, hosted by Clark Hill PLC, was held at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Downtown Detroit. "I am honored to be recognized by such a well-respected organization," said Mr. Ficano. "I truly appreciate the work that Life Directions does for at risk youth in our community."

Life Directions has several community based programs aimed at improving the lives of "at risk" youth, including the Neighborhood Enrichment Program, the Peer Motivation Program, and the Peer Mentor Program, among others. These programs are documented as reducing in-school truancy and dropout rates. From 1990-2005, Life Directions expanded its services to Chicago, Tucson, and Marion County, OR.

Also last night, Executive Ficano was given an award at the Midwest Technology Leaders 2009 event held at the MGM Grand in Detroit by Midwest Technology Leaders at its award ceremony. Mr. Ficano was honored for the development of Wayne County's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP) and its Web site www.fightMortgageForeclosure.com.

“Through Robert Ficano’s leadership, Wayne County has developed an unparalleled solution for one of Michigan’s biggest challenges by helping its residents prevent or navigate the mortgage foreclosure process,” said Tracy Ann Palmer, Executive Director of Midwest Technology Leaders. “Mr. Ficano is a shining example of innovation and action leading to a healthier region.”

The 2CMICHIGAN award honors corporate individuals who actively participate in community relations, organizations and other philanthropic activities to promote healthy, highly functional Michigan.

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