



**WFYI Public Media, in Collaboration with the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library & Herron School of Art and Design, Launches Website for Indiana's Veterans  
New Online Destination Will Help Hoosier Vets with the Transition to Civilian Life**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2014

As part of ***Veterans Coming Home***, a multi-media, arts-focused awareness campaign developed by **WFYI Public Media**, in collaboration with the **Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library** and **Herron School of Art and Design's Art Therapy Program**, a **new website** designed to help Hoosier veterans with their transition to civilian life will launch on **Friday, July 4, 2014 — on what will be our nation's 239<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

The new website features a wealth of valuable content, including resources for veterans seeking employment; specialized health services; educational tools; opportunities for community service; the ability to share powerful stories with one another; and online streams of WFYI, PBS and NPR programming about extraordinary "Stories of Service." The site is accessible at <http://wfyi.veteranscominghome.org/>

Funded by the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting**, and facilitated through **Wisconsin Public Television**, the ***Veterans Coming Home website*** is designed to connect Indiana's extensive and diverse population of veterans through highly-accessible, effective and creative solutions that will help them transition to civilian life. A need that has become increasingly more critical in Central Indiana, especially since **Marion County is home to 65,183 veterans, and currently ranks in the top 2% of counties in the nation with the largest population of veterans**. And statewide **more than 490,000 veterans reside in Indiana**. These are striking statistics, particularly when **14% of Indiana's veteran population is currently under the age of 25**. Moreover, **20% of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans** meet diagnostic criteria for **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression**, according to research by the RAND Corporation.

The ***Veterans Coming Home*** initiative is designed to promote community-wide dialogue around the significant challenges Hoosier veterans face — health care, housing, education and employment— while transitioning to civilian life. The campaign will also help connect returning veterans with existing community resources, as well as explore new and innovative approaches to healing and coping, such as clinical art therapy intervention and therapeutic arts programs. To learn more about the ***Veterans Coming Home*** campaign, click here: <http://bit.ly/1mlp1O5>.

### **About WFYI Public Media:**

For more than four decades, WFYI Public Media has served as a center of discovery for all ages. WFYI's diverse public radio and television programs and services provide a foundation for early learning, inspire curiosity and serve as a catalyst for lifelong learning. To learn more about WFYI Public Media's programs and educational services, visit the station's website — [www.wfyi.org](http://www.wfyi.org), "like" us on Facebook, or follow along on Twitter (@wfyi and @wfyinews).

### **About Herron School of Art and Design's Art Therapy Program:**

Herron School of Art and Design's Art Therapy Program responds to Indiana's need to educate master's-level art therapists, positioning them to obtain nationally-recognized professional credentials. The program's director, Juliet King, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, is conducting groundbreaking work with returning veterans through the Roudebush VA Medical Center. The collaboration is providing an opportunity for the veterans to benefit from art therapy for the first time in Indiana. For more information about the Art Therapy Program at Herron School of Art and Design, please visit <http://www.herron.iupui.edu/art-therapy>.

### **About the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library:**

In honor of his timeless wit and wisdom, the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library champions the literary, artistic and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist, teacher and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut. The library/museum serves as a cultural and educational resource unique to the nation. Visit [www.vonnegutlibrary.org](http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org) to learn more.

-0-

### **Media Contacts:**

Lori Plummer, WFYI Public Media: (317) 614-0462 | [lplummer@wfyi.org](mailto:lplummer@wfyi.org)

Julia Whitehead, Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library: (317) 652-1954 | [julia.whitehead@vonnegutlibrary.org](mailto:julia.whitehead@vonnegutlibrary.org)

Glennnda McGann, Herron School of Art and Design: (317) 278-9477 | [gmmcgann@iupui.edu](mailto:gmmcgann@iupui.edu)