

Floyd County has been selected as one of the America's Promise Alliance 2012 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING, a national competition to recognize local communities' programs and initiatives aimed at supporting youth and ending the high school dropout crisis.

To celebrate this achievement, city officials, community members and students held an official "Watch Party" to view the live webcast on Sept. 12 to celebrate the win and showcasing the reasons why Floyd County is one of the nation's top communities for children and youth.

Among the reasons Floyd County was selected as a second time 100 Best Community is a focus on education and child support services.

Various county partners, including Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, City of New Albany, Blue Sky Foundation, and Floyd Memorial Foundation and their Auxiliary Committee, plus local citizens, implemented the national Blessing in a Backpack program which provides nutritious foods for students in grades K- 5 who qualify for free or reduced-price meal programs.

Floyd County also hosts Rauch Inc., a local non-profit whose programs include Healthy Families which supports families and people with disabilities. The initiative includes a parent volunteer program to assist prospective and current parents with living a balanced lifestyle, and learning about a child's needs and healthy development.

Those in attendance were Ron Grooms, Indiana State Senator, Jeff Gahan, Mayor of New Albany, Dr. Brad Snyder, Deputy Superintendent New Albany Floyd County Schools, Rose Schillmiller, Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, Mark Boone, President New Albany Floyd County School Board, Teachers and Students from New Albany Floyd County Schools, Community Montessori, and Rock Creek Community Academy, Various Youth Program representatives and students.

More than 7,000 students drop out of a U.S. school every day, that's more than one million young people a year. This means about one out of every four students do not graduate high school on time, making the dropout crisis a critical issue for our communities and nation.

America's Promise Alliance raises awareness and supports communities to ensure that young people have the fundamental resources needed to graduate high school and succeed in college, work and life. Its signature competition since 2005, 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING is part of the America's Promise Grad Nation campaign, a large and growing movement of dedicated individuals, organizations and communities working together to end the dropout crisis.

The competition honors communities that are committed to creating brighter futures for America's young people by helping ensure that they experience more of the Five Promises and graduate from high school ready to do their part to help end the nation's dropout and workforce readiness crisis.

The competition is open to all communities that make children and youth a priority, from small towns to large cities, to local counties and school districts.

About America's Promise Alliance

America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership dedicated to improving the lives

of children and youth. We bring together more than 400 national organizations representing nonprofit groups, businesses, communities, educators and policymakers.

Through our Grad Nation campaign, we mobilize Americans to end the high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce. Building on the legacy of our Founding Chairman General Colin Powell, America's Promise believes the success of young people is grounded in Five Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education, and Opportunities to Help Others. www.americaspromise.org.