



City of Greenacres

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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Greenacres Named One of the Nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People* by America's Promise Alliance and ING

Competition Recognizes Community's Efforts to Reduce High School Dropout Rates

October 12, 2011 — Greenacres achieved national recognition as one of America's Promise Alliance's *100 Best Communities for Young People* presented by ING for its initiatives to help young people. The competition recognizes communities across the country that focus on reducing high school dropout rates and providing service and support to their youth.

A four-time *100 Best Communities for Young People* winner, Greenacres continues to make young people a priority through its academic programs, leadership initiatives and opportunities for them to become future community leaders. From elementary school through high school, Greenacres make its young residents a priority. The Youth Delegates in Action Council's mission is to serve as the collective voice for youth and develop programs aimed at developing leadership skills from grade school through senior year. In partnership with the Mayor's Challenge and Read for the Record, The Literacy Coalition helps expose more young people to science, math, engineering and technology.

"We are proud of Greenacres for being named one of the America's Promise Alliance's *100 Best*," said Samuel J. Ferreri, Mayor, City of Greenacres. "This award recognizes the hard work of many community members that have dedicated their time to making a difference in the lives of our young people."

"In a nation where 7,000 students drop out of high school every day, we hope Greenacres's initiatives inspire other communities across the nation to take action to solve the challenges facing their young people," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America's Promise Alliance president and CEO. "Greenacres is especially deserving of this recognition due to their efforts to ensure that their young people graduate high school and go on to lead healthy, productive lives. Greenacres refuses to let the challenges they face determine the future for their young people. Instead, they are helping their youth prosper and become contributing members of society."

At noon EST on Oct. 12, 2011, Kondracke will join America's Promise Alliance Chair Alma Powell and ING Foundation President Rhonda Mims at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., to officially announce the 100 winning communities in a live webcast, hosted by Luke Russert, which can be viewed at www.americaspromise.org/100bestwebcast.

"The issues surrounding youth education and success are of vital importance to ING," said Mims. "Our ongoing support for *100 Best* underscores our commitment to the cause and the value we place on recognizing communities that produce measurable results for youth."

Greenacres will receive a \$2,500 grant, signage identifying the community as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*, and access to America's Promise Alliance's community development resources.

All communities entering the *100 Best* competition completed a rigorous application where they provided details on how their existing programs and initiatives help deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by the Alliance as being critical to the development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others. Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community work together to help children and families overcome challenges. Most importantly, communities were judged on the strength and innovation of their efforts and programs to help young people graduate from high school prepared for college and the 21st century workforce.

This year, more than 300 communities from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were nominated for the *100 Best* distinction. Winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of 20 judges that included: Marc Morial, president and CEO, National Urban League, Roxanne Spillett, president and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Michelle Shearer, Chemistry Teacher, Urbana High School, 2011 National Teacher of the Year. The winners are a diverse group, ranging from small communities to large cities. A list of all 2011 winners can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100best.

About America's Promise Alliance
America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth by raising awareness, supporting communities, and engaging in nonpartisan advocacy. Through our Grad Nation campaign, we harness the collective power of our partner network to 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, the Alliance believes the success of our young people is grounded in the Five Promises—caring adults; safe places; a healthy start; an effective education; and opportunities to help others. For more information about America's Promise Alliance, visit www.americaspromise.org.

About ING
ING is a global financial institution of Dutch origin offering banking, investments, life insurance, and retirement services to over 85 million residential, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries. With a diverse workforce of about 115,000 people, ING is dedicated to setting the standard in helping our clients manage their financial future. ING's diversity management philosophy and commitment to workplace diversity, diversity marketing, corporate citizenship and supplier diversity fosters an inclusive environment for employees that supports a distinctive product and service experience for the financial services consumer. For more information, visit www.ing.com/us.

About the ING Foundation

The ING Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where ING operates and its employees and customers live. Through charitable giving and employee volunteerism, the foundation focuses on programs in the areas of financial literacy, children's education, diversity, and environmental sustainability. For more information, visit www.ing-usafoundation.com. ###