

# INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

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Indiana Association of REALTORS® names REALTOR® of the Year, Distinguished Service, Good Neighbor honorees at annual member event:

**Saba Mohammed (Northwest Indiana) named 2022 REALTOR® of the Year; Lori Todd (Bloomington) recognized for Distinguished Service, and Barb Swartley (Elkhart) earns Good Neighbor Award for community involvement**

(INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.) The Indiana Association of REALTORS® (IAR) met this week for their annual Stakeholder Meeting in Indianapolis. Hundreds of REALTORS® gathered Monday and Tuesday for the Association's first live all-member conference since 2019, for an agenda that included special recognitions for outstanding professional achievement, civic involvement and philanthropic efforts.

"Our members have sold more than \$65 billion in residential property since our last face-to-face Stakeholder Meeting," said IAR President Andy Rudolph of FC Tucker Company. "We're excited to be together, learn from one another and explore new resources to help homebuyers and sellers succeed in this changing housing market, as well as honoring the good work of their fellow REALTORS®."

Three statewide awards were announced at a celebration dinner held Monday evening.

## **Saba Mohammed – Indiana REALTOR® of the Year**

Saba Mohammed of Envision Real Estate Services and the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS® (GNIAR) was named IAR's 2022 REALTOR® of the Year as a testament to her leadership in her state, local and national REALTOR® associations over more than a decade, including service on both the IAR and GNIAR boards along with active participation on dozens of committees, task forces and educational campaigns.

Mohammed was hailed for her passion for encouraging the industry to adopt new technologies to better serve homebuyers and sellers, as well as her civic leadership, activism and work as a tireless advocate for her hometown of Gary and the Northwest Indiana region.

"A look at Saba's resume makes you wonder, 'How are there enough hours in the day?'" said Brian Thompson, 2021 REALTOR® of the Year, in presenting this year's award. "But when you really know Saba, the list of activities and accomplishments becomes even more impressive, because she brings a real commitment, desire to contribute and intention to make a difference to every single one."

"Saba Mohammed is a visionary thinker who never loses touch with the people she serves, a rare combination," said IAR CEO Mark Fisher. "One moment she'll be leading a discussion of how blockchain technology will impact real estate transactions, and the next you'll hear about her paying a utility bill for a local family in need – it's hard to quantify the impact she makes, because she contributes in so many ways to her colleagues and community."



*The term REALTOR® is a registered mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the United States' largest trade association, the National Association of REALTORS®.*

**Lori Todd – Distinguished Service Award**

The challenging schedule of professional, philanthropic and civic pursuits was a recurring theme with IAR’s 2022 Distinguished Service Award winner, Lori Todd of Choice Realty & Management, member of the Bloomington Board of REALTORS®.

Over twenty years in real estate, Todd has been heavily involved in government affairs and political advocacy on behalf of homeowners, including a volunteer role as a REALTOR® congressional liaison and supporter of pro-housing candidates and officeholders at all levels. She’s held numerous positions of state and local association leadership and will chair the governing board of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) serving the Bloomington market in 2023.

She is also a stalwart fundraiser and volunteer for a variety of non-profit organizations, most notably the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington and Habitat for Humanity.

“Lori Todd is the kind of straightforward, committed volunteer leader who lives the REALTOR® brand,” said Rudolph. “She’s focused on strengthening our profession, raising our standards for serving our clients and raising the bar for volunteer service beyond the world of real estate.

“This award would be better suited to Lori if we added the word ‘dynamic’ to ‘distinguished’ – she’s constantly setting an example for all of us with her energy and enthusiasm for results,” Rudolph added.

**Barb Swartley – Indiana Good Neighbor Award** presented by Ruoff Mortgage

The Indiana Good Neighbor Award recognizes outstanding community service and is accompanied by a \$5,000 contribution to the recipient’s chosen cause. This year’s Good Neighbor Award was made possible with the generous financial support of a new presenting sponsor, Ruoff Mortgage.

This year’s Indiana Good Neighbor winner is Barb Swartley of Coldwell Banker, Elkhart Board of REALTORS®, for her support of La Casa, an organization focused on housing stability, affordability and neighborhood development in Elkhart County.

Swartley was nominated by her daughter, Christina Clauss, who followed in her footsteps to become a successful REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker (Goshen) as well. Clauss cited her mother’s rise from office administrative assistant to top REALTOR®, confidant and advisor to local elected officials and prolific fundraiser and volunteer for groups like La Casa as an inspiration for her own career.

“Good Neighbors like Barb Swartley don’t look for credit because they’re too busy looking for ways to help,” said Bernice Helman, IAR’s 2020 president and recipient of the National Association of REALTORS® Good Neighbor Award in 2013. “But we know that Barb’s work through the years has helped countless families into homes and transformed entire neighborhoods, block by block.

“Indiana’s REALTORS® are honored to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Barb Swartley and support the work of La Casa, celebrating their story to inspire more like them.”

Two Honorable Mention Good Neighbor awards were also presented Monday evening, sponsored by IAR’s Real Estate Certification Program (RECP). Donations of \$1,000 each were made on behalf of Mike Schultz (Southwest Indiana) for ‘Sleep in Heavenly Peace’ Evansville and Ken Maddin (Southeast Indiana) for The Community Project of Dearborn County.

