

June 1, 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen,

*WNIT is a trusted, community owned public media source that is dedicated to inspire, inform, educate, entertain and unify the communities we serve.*

Everyone at WNIT is dedicated to this mission and we take our responsibilities seriously. With that in mind, we'd like to address recent negative misinformation being distributed about WNIT's renovation project in South Bend.

We ask you to take a moment to read the following points detailing the process taken to hire contractors for the renovation project. WNIT's Board of Directors and staff are taking great care with your donated funds to maximize the resources we have been given.

- All renovations currently being performed are with donations from private sources.
- Holladay Construction Group was selected by the Board of Directors as the Construction Manager for the WNIT renovation project at 300 W. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, Indiana
- Holladay has selected 9 subcontractors for the project; four are **union contractors** and five are non-union. Holladay feels that "this is the best team put together for a competitive budget and to ensure quality workmanship."
- All contracts were awarded in keeping with a competitive bid process.
- Gaylor Electric was the winning bidder in the electrical process of the renovation and they have provided the following information about their organization:
  - A local Elkhart company whose employees work and live locally
  - 100% of electrical materials are purchased from local vendors
  - A merit shop contractor with the importance of values relating directly to their success
  - Established in 1990 with over fifty employees who pay taxes in the South Bend and surrounding area.
- The City of South Bend has made a commitment for \$1 million in TIF funds for façade renovations to the project and that portion of the work will be bid separately and managed by the City of South Bend at **prevailing wage rates**. WNIT will not receive any of the TIF funds directly.
- The selected carpenter subcontractor, HGR, is a non-union company that subcontracts with independent contractors for the work and we have been assured that each of these independent contractors are **licensed and have the required permits and bonding**.
- WNIT serves 22 communities in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan

We are very interested in hearing from the community and would like to address any concerns that you may have regarding the renovation project or any other general concerns regarding WNIT. Please contact us if you want any further information and, with your help, we move on to fulfill our mission of essential service to Michiana.

Sincerely,

*Mary Pruess*

Mary Pruess  
President and General Manager