

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Starkville's Lynn Phillips-Gaines of Phillips Financial Honored for Philanthropic Contributions to Starkville Bridges Out of Poverty

Newton, MA – July 31, 2014 – Lynn Phillips-Gaines, founder and Past-President of the Board of Starkville Bridges Out of Poverty in Starkville, Mississippi, has been announced as one of the 15 finalists in the eighth annual Invest in Others Community Leadership Awards. Specifically, Ms. Phillips-Gaines is one of three finalists in the Volunteer of the Year Award category.

The Invest in Others Charitable Foundation established the Community Leadership Awards to support the philanthropic and volunteer activities of financial advisors. Financial advisors from across the nation are nominated by their peers for exemplifying outstanding leadership qualities in the industry and actively volunteering to improve their communities and make a difference in the lives of others. There are five award categories: Catalyst Award, Community Service Award, Global Community Impact Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Hundreds of nominations for the Community Leadership Awards are received each year and reviewed by a diverse panel of leaders in the financial services industry. This year's applicant pool was particularly strong. Finalists were selected based on their level of involvement, contributions, and the impact of their efforts.

The mission of Starkville Bridges Out of Poverty (Starkville Bridges) is to eradicate poverty in Oktibbeha County by providing education and resources for people in poverty to transition into the middle-class. Starkville Bridges breaks down existing paradigms about poverty and seeks to bridge the middle-class with low-income citizens, so they can understand and learn each other's hidden rules for the overall betterment of the community. This is achieved through community training, a 16-session class called Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World, and Building Bridges for Kids, where college students are trained to act as volunteer mentors to children between the ages of 3 and 15. Ms. Phillips-Gaines is a Certified Trainer of the Bridges Out of Poverty program and volunteered approximately 4,700 hours to develop the program in Starkville, establishing a Board of Directors, obtaining 501(c)(3) status, holding two major fundraisers, adding a full-time administrator and several part-time employees to her payroll, and providing a suite of offices, telephones, office supplies and computers for the nonprofit's use. As Starkville's Bridges has matured, Ms. Phillips-Gaines also has inspired four other Mississippi communities to launch Bridges Out of Poverty programs.

The Invest in Others Community Leadership Awards dinner will be held in New York City on Thursday, September 18, 2014, where winners will be announced. Award finalists and winners will receive a generous donation to their designated charities. In the Volunteer of the Year Award category, finalists will each receive \$5,000 and the winner will receive \$20,000.

Following this year's awards dinner, Invest in Others winners and finalists will visit the NASDAQ MarketSite in New York City's Time Square on Friday, September 19. In honor of the occasion, Bill Dwyer, Chairman of the Board of Invest in Others, will ring the NASDAQ Opening Bell.

About the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation

Established in 2006, the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charity founded with the mission of encouraging, recognizing, and supporting the philanthropic and volunteer activities of financial advisors in their local communities. The Invest in Others mission is achieved

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through a community-based approach to philanthropy that seeks to strengthen neighborhoods from within by empowering those who are committed to serving others in their professional and personal lives. As mentors, volunteers, fundraisers and leaders, financial professionals lend their unique skills and perspectives to the challenges and opportunities facing their neighbors. Invest in Others is proud to support and promote these efforts to better our world one community at a time. For more information, visit www.investinothers.org.

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