

**Lee Woodruff, Author/ Contributing Editor, *Good Morning America*,
to be featured speaker in celebration of the family caregiver
at 36th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony
of Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana**

Ft. Wayne, IN – Aging and In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana (AIHS), the Area III Area Agency on Aging, announces Lee Woodruff, Author/ Contributing Editor, *Good Morning America* will be the featured speaker at their 36th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony to be held Friday, October 21, 2011, Noon-2pm at Marriott Fort Wayne Marquis Ballroom. Luncheon tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling AIHS, (260) 745-1200, extension 228.

This year the event is in celebration of the family caregiver and serves as AIHS' kickoff to National Family Caregiver Month. Woodruff will share her experience of caregiving and healing after her husband, ABC co-anchor Bob Woodruff, suffered a traumatic brain injury while covering the war in Iraq. Together, they chronicled his miraculous recovery, their approach to the crisis that befell them and the strengthening of their family as a result in "In an Instant: A Family's Journey of Love and Healing." Lee's second book "Perfectly Imperfect: A Life in Progress" has been reviewed as "Nora Ephron + Erma Bombeck = Lee Woodruff. This is the book for all the women in your life!" She is currently working on her third book. Most recently, Woodruff's writing has been featured in the October 2011 issue of Ladies' Home Journal, and October 07, 2011 Huffington Post, Huff/Post 50, Website for Baby Boomers.

According to Connie Benton Wolfe, President & CEO, AIHS, "The Annual Meeting is our once-a-year opportunity to bring together members of our service area – all nine counties – for the specific purpose of celebrating our significant partners in accomplishing our mission to promote independence for all older adults and persons with disabilities. The family caregiver is the foundation of long term care in this country. I am witness to the commitment that families make every day to keep their dear parent, loving spouse, or special kid in a home environment that suits them physically and nourishes them spiritually. These family caregivers often receive support through our agency, but what we offer them is nothing compared with what they give in return. They are the backbone of long -term care in our country and without them, our society would find it impossible to serve everyone who needs assistance."

During the Awards Ceremony, AIHS will announce the recipients of the 2011 "Communities for a Lifetime - Awards of Excellence" which recognizes achievements by individuals and/or organizations that have contributed to building a "Livable Community for All Ages" as defined by the Aging in Place Initiative which was developed to help America's communities prepare for the aging of their population and to become places that are good to grow up, live in and grow old. 2010 "Communities for a Lifetime - Awards of Excellence" honorees were Tom Henry, Mayor of Fort Wayne; Mike Packnett, CEO, Parkview Health; Dr. Wendy Robinson, Superintendent, Fort Wayne Community Schools; Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, State of Indiana. Underwriting support for the Awards of Excellence has been received from AARP, Loving Care Agency, On Tray Meal Systems, and Universal American Corp.

The event is underwritten by sponsorships from American Senior Communities and their eight Fort Wayne properties (Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, Bethlehem Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation, Betz Nursing Home, Coventry Meadows, Glenbrook Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Center, Heritage Park, Markle Health & Rehabilitation, and Summit City Nursing & Rehabilitation); Beers Mallers Backs & Salin; Comfort Keepers; Community Home Health Care; Dale, Huffman, Babcock; and MAXIM Healthcare Services, among others. Media Sponsor is Northeast Indiana Public Radio WBOI.

Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (AIHS) promotes independence, dignity, and advocacy for all older adults and persons with disabilities. As the Area III Area Agency on Aging, AIHS is the primary resource for aging and disabled populations and the largest funder of services including support for the Council on Aging in the following nine counties: Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, Whitley.

-30-

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