

**NEWS
RELEASE**

October 15, 2012
CITY OF PADUCAH, KY



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KLC Names Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program of Paducah-McCracken County as Runner-Up in Enterprise Cities Awards

PADUCAH – The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) honored the City of Paducah by naming the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program of Paducah-McCracken County as an Enterprise Cities Award runner-up in the more than 15,000 population category. The City was honored during the KLC Annual Conference and Expo in Lexington, Kentucky on October 12, 2012. The Enterprise Cities Awards go to municipalities in four population categories that have demonstrated entrepreneurship, innovation, and excellence in local governance. As a runner-up, Paducah will receive \$250 to be used toward the intervention program.

“Cities learn from each other,” said Jon Steiner, KLC executive director/CEO. “In these challenging times, it is a priority that communities are innovative and resourceful to serve citizens and promote their local uniqueness.”

In March 2011, the City of Paducah Fire Department along with several partners launched the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program of Paducah-McCracken County with the goal of educating youth about the risks and consequences of the misuse of fire. Representatives from several of the partner agencies have completed 40-hour training through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to become Firesetter Intervention Specialists. The program involves several components including identification, evaluation, and education. The juveniles attend classes led by Paducah firefighters and representatives from the partner agencies. Youth are provided a certificate at the end of the session.

Paducah Deputy Fire Chief of Fire Prevention Greg Cherry says, “Representatives from different agencies were needed to make this intervention program work. I am thankful for the commitment of the various partners.” Cherry adds, “The program has been successful with 32 juveniles completing the requirements. Now, we are working to expand the program to accept juveniles from across the Purchase Area.”



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If anyone has a question about the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program, contact Cherry at 444-8522. Program partners include the Paducah Police and Fire Departments, ChildWatch, Paducah and McCracken County Public Schools, Four Rivers Behavioral Health, Kentucky Department for Community Based Services, McCracken County Juvenile Detention Center, Paducah Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Western Baptist Hospital, Lourdes Hospital, the McCracken County Court System, and Necco.

KLC has given Enterprise Cities Awards since 1999. Entries are judged in seven key areas: innovativeness or creativity of the project, long-term value to the community, adaptability to other cities, use of public/private partnerships, ability to achieve project benchmarks, community-citizen participation and program efficiency. Founded in 1927, KLC is a membership organization of more than 380 cities across the Commonwealth. For more information about KLC, visit www.klc.org.

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