



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Belpre, OH America in Bloom National 2013 Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Belpre earned a four bloom rating in the 4,001 to 7,000 population category. In addition, they received an outstanding achievement award for their efforts in Community Involvement. Outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories. They also received a special mention for their floral displays.

Belpre was judged on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Evelyn Alemanni and Billy Butterfield, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 4,001 to 7,000 category were Estes Park, CO; Greendale, IN, and the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH.

Alemanni and Butterfield were very impressed with the city's floral displays and commented, "Belpre's gateways are attractively landscaped with a variety of blooming shrubs and perennials, creating an inviting entry at four points. The high school, fire station, and several businesses made an effort to create visual interest with colorful flowers. Belpre's parks are enhanced by hanging baskets and planters, notably the planters made of recycled tires painted and planted by students. Kudos to the Women's Club, Master Gardeners, Garden Club, and Bob's Market for all their efforts."

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Congratulations to Belpre!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

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*America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

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