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**CharityWorks GreenHouse Unveils
First Carbon Neutral Designer Show House on the East Coast**

McLean, Va., October 6, 2009 -- CharityWorks GreenHouse, the first Carbon Neutral Designer Show House on the East Coast, will open its doors to the public October 10 – 30. The CharityWorks GreenHouse features the eco-friendly creations of 19 acclaimed interior designers including internationally recognized designer Barry Dixon. The GreenHouse, constructed by WEST*GROUP in collaboration with GreenSpur, Inc., was designed by the Washington, D.C. architectural firm of Cunningham Quill.

"There is more to a green house than unbleached linen and drab, neutral color schemes. We want to show the public that there is such a thing as *Luxurious Sustainable Living* utilizing the best of eco-friendly materials, products and services so people will start to look at living green in a whole new way," said Barry Dixon, Chair of the Design Committee.

"Architects, developers, designers, landscapers, builders, tradesmen, suppliers, and volunteers have contributed their time, talents and treasure to create this eco-spectacular show house," said Deanna Belli and Vicky Sabo, Co-Directors of the GreenHouse. "The house is filled with terrific, practical ways to incorporate sustainable design elements such as reclaimed wood floors, no- and low-VOC paints, non-toxic finishes, furniture made with Forest Stewardship Council wood, soy-based cushions, vintage furnishings and fabrics, and art created from remnants and recycled pieces. The result is high design with a conscience."

Tickets to visit the show house cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. 100% of the net proceeds from the CharityWorks GreenHouse will benefit the Friendship Public Charter School,

the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, and the McLean Project for the Arts.

“We are connected to Charity Works and its vision to show the world what a ‘green’ house can be,” said Donald Hense, chairman and CEO of the Friendship Public Charter School, CharityWorks’ 2009 Partner. “Friendship is living the CharityWorks example as we seek to construct the first LEED certified school building in Anacostia, D.C. We are grateful for this opportunity to join CharityWorks in giving families and children in our community a better chance at a sustainable future.

According to Mark Lowham, Senior Vice President of WEST*GROUP and Chairman of the CharityWorks GreenHouse, “This home showcases how energy efficient design, renewable energy systems, eco-friendly interior design and a smart location can come together in a home that is both environmentally friendly and a beautiful place to live. This will be both a model project and a home that fits right into the surrounding community.”

“The CharityWorks GreenHouse is more than a fundraiser --- it is a unique opportunity to show that it is possible to live in harmony with the world at large,” said Philippe Cousteau, Co-Founder of Azure Worldwide and Co-Founder and CEO of EarthEcho International, an advisor on the project. “The CharityWorks GreenHouse will help visitors understand that everything we do affects the global system; how we live affects the far away ocean, the climate and ultimately the weather right here in Fairfax County.”

“We already know that energy-efficient building design will help reduce carbon emissions, the leading source of greenhouse gases,” said builder Mark Turner, Founder and President and Founder of GreenSpur, Inc. “Based on the Energy Star Yardstick this home is more energy efficient than 99.99% of the homes built since 2000. In fact, the CharityWorks GreenHouse is expected to use 80 percent less energy per square foot than a comparable new house.”

According to Turner, numerous environmental and sustainability decisions were made when planning and building the GreenHouse. “The house is orientated considering the summer and winter solstice — in other words a southern exposure, shading the windows from the high summer sun and yet allowing for heat gain for the lower winter sun. The existing 50 year old trees were spared, resulting in cool shade from the hot summer sun.”

The design of the grounds of the house was part of an overall plan for energy and water conservation. Plants native to Virginia were selected for their drought tolerance, disease resistance and low maintenance. The walkway paving stones are 100% water permeable, improving drainage and reducing the need to water. The windows are aluminum clad, casement windows, and the most energy efficient style window on the market. The metal roof is one of the most eco-friendly choices you can make. Metal is made of a material that is recyclable, will last a very long time, and has high solar reflectivity. And it cools down quickly when the sun goes down --all leading to lower cooling bills.

The GreenHouse uses solar panels to provide hot water for the house. Solar energy produces no air or water pollution. A geothermal system, which takes advantage of the 55-degree temperature just below the surface, provides the heating and cooling. Radiant tubing was installed to deliver comfortable and efficient heat...it doesn't require ductwork and greatly improves indoor air quality.

The home's site was selected because of its proximity to the amenities of McLean and to a Metro bus stop. "Reliable and attractive public transportation is a key piece of the carbon puzzle," said Mark Lowham. "We must increase opportunities for people to get out of their cars if we are going to be successful in addressing climate change." Visitors to the house will also get a closer look at the new Chevy Volt, GM's extended-range electric vehicle scheduled to begin mass production in 2010 and projected to achieve city fuel economy of at least 230 mpg.

Leah Gansler, Founder of Charity Works, said "For ten years, CharityWorks has been an effective bridge between donors and non-profit organizations doing the hard work of helping families and children in need. The CharityWorks GreenHouse is a milestone in our history. It is the right house, in the right community at the right time, and we hope it will serve as a catalyst for a communitywide conversation about the new meaning of living well."

Participating Designers:

Nancy Colbert, Design Partners, LLC
Miriam Dillon and Rebecca Foley, Custom Design Concepts
Barry Dixon, Barry Dixon Interiors, Inc.
Susan Gulick, Susan Gulick Interiors
Annette Hannon, Annette Hannon Interior Design, Ltd.
Barbara Hawthorn, Barbara Hawthorn Interiors, Ltd.
Charlotte Lekakos, Willard and Palmer
Gary Lovejoy, Gary Lovejoy Associates, Inc.
Lynni Megginson, L&M Designs
Sandra Meyers, Sandra Meyers Design Studio, LLC
Victoria Neale, Victoria Neale Interiors, LLC
Raji Radhakrishnan, Raji RM & Associates
Michael Roberson, Michael Roberson Interior Design
Cynthia Sayers, Creative Design Solutions
Ernesto Santalla AIA LEED AP, Studio Santalla, Inc.
Skip Sroka, Sroka Design, Inc.
Dee Thornton, Houseworks Interiors, Inc.
Lisa Weiss, The Wine Cellar Company

*The CharityWorks GreenHouse was made possible through the generosity of: West*Group-Jerry Halpin/Jacques and Leah Gansler/ManTech International Corporation/Interstate Worldwide Relocation Services/CSC/Barry Dixon and Michael Schmidt/Dominion Resources/Mark Lowham and Joseph Ruzzo/Norma and Russ Ramsey/Enterprise Solutions Group-Vicky and Bill Sabo/General Motors Company/Chevy Volt/ Jack Davies and Kay Kendall/The McLean PR Group/The Peterson Family Foundation/CB Richard Ellis/Charles Luck Stone Center/Dental Group of Tysons/Pamela and Richard Hanlong/Studio Santalla/Deanna and Pedro Belli/The Bush Companies-Andrew A. Viola/Marcy and Neil Cohen/Paula and Robert Hisaoka/J. Lambeth Company/Liljenquist & Beckstead Jewelers/Debbie and Ray Lupo/McLean Asset Management Corporation/Anne and Raymond Ritchey/Alice and Ken Starr/Tori W. Thomas/Veolia Transportation/The Washington Design Center*

CharityWorks is a volunteer-led community organization that has been making connections between dreams and reality for more than a decade. Since 1999, CharityWorks has channeled millions of dollars to community organizations doing the hard work of helping children and families overcome challenges and break the cycle of poverty that continues to plague our nation's capital. CharityWorks is a component fund of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region. For more details please log on to www.charityworksgreenhouse.com.

CharityWorks GreenHouse 703-286-0758 info@charityworksgreenhouse.com

Free Parking and Shuttle at: 1320 Old Chain Bridge Rd. McLean, VA 22101

Open: October 10 – 30, 2009

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.