



Pima County Development Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOME BUILDERS RECEIVE GRANTS FOR GOING GREEN

Tucson, Ariz. (March 1, 2010) - With assistance from Pima County, the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) and Habitat for Humanity Tucson have received grants from the US Green Building Council to build **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** Certified green homes. CPSA received \$3,688 to have the ten-unit Sonrisa Apartments LEED certified in response to a grant application submitted by its Housing Team. Habitat for Humanity received \$1,000 to have one Habitat home LEED certified. Habitat volunteers paid for the registration of the project with the US Green Building Council and took the lead in the submitting the grant request.

CPSA, a Tucson-based nonprofit organization, has overseen publicly funded behavioral health services for persons with mental illness or substance use disorders in five Southern Arizona counties for the past 15 years. "This is wonderful news and recognition," said Barbara Montrose, Director of CPSA Housing Services, "CPSA is proud to be a part of the LEED for Homes program and to promote green affordable housing in Pima County, Arizona." Sonrisa Apartments will provide supportive housing for very-low-income young adults with a serious mental illness who are aging out of foster care. The apartments were designed with input from prospective residents to ensure the facility is customized to their needs.

LEED certification provides third-party assurance to homebuyers that their home complies with rigorous technical requirements for energy and water efficiency, indoor air quality, non-toxic materials, and environmental performance. Homes that are certified through LEED complete a

technically rigorous verification process that includes a home energy (HERS) rating and onsite inspections.

“We’re able to implement these kinds of green changes in our building program through our partnerships with local programs like Pima County,” said Michael McDonald, Executive Director of Habitat Tucson. “We recognize the value these standards add not only to our homeowners with utility cost savings and sustainable housing, but to our environment and to our community.”

“Affordability and Green go together,” said Rich Franz-Ünder, Pima County’s Green Building Program manager, “Green homes have lower utility bills which reduce the overall cost of home ownership, and healthier indoor environments which may reduce healthcare costs.”

Pima County is a LEED for Homes Provider for all of Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California. The County is the only government jurisdiction authorized to review and inspect homes for LEED Certification. For more information about the County LEED certification program call (520) 740-6892.

About US Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since USGBC’s founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 14,500 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry’s popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 77 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

About LEED® for Homes

LEED® for Homes is a third-party certification system for high-performance green homes. Developed and administered by USGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in seven categories of environmental performance: Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Homeowner Awareness, and Innovation and Design. To date, more than 2,500 homes have been LEED-certified, and over 13,000 have been

registered and are under development. Lower insurance rates, advantageous financing, and government incentives may be available for LEED-certified homes. For more information, visit www.thegreenhomeguide.org.