



## MEDIA ALERT

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### COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERS AWARDED LEED® GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION

Christiansburg, Va. – Community Housing Partners (CHP) announced today that it has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for designing and constructing the Tekoa Boys' Home, a 20-bed therapeutic residential facility for at-risk youth in Christiansburg, Virginia, which is one of the first LEED certified new construction projects built in southwestern Virginia. LEED is the USGBC's leading rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and high performing buildings.

"CHP is honored to receive this prestigious distinction from USGBC, which recognizes our efforts to efficiently use our natural resources and make an immediate, positive impact on our planet," said CHP President & CEO Janaka Casper. "The Tekoa Boys Home successfully integrates building design and construction with the natural environment, which will ultimately benefit future generations to come."

Designed by Community Design Studio (CDS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of CHP, the Tekoa Boys Home is a result of an integrated design process that incorporated ideas and feedback from government officials, industry partners, funders, and Tekoa residents and staff. Stakeholder input helped shape the final design, resulting in a healthy,

efficient, durable, and aesthetically appealing environment that meets LEED standards for energy use, lighting, water and material use, as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. LEED verifies environmental performance, occupant health and financial return. LEED was established for market leaders to design & construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense.

“The green building movement offers an unprecedented opportunity to respond to the most-important challenges of our time, including global climate change, dependence on non-sustainable and expensive sources of energy and threats to human health,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, USGBC. “The work of innovative building projects such as the Tekoa Boys Home is a fundamental driving force in the green building movement.”

LEED certification of the Tekoa Boys Home was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include:

- Geothermal heating/cooling system
- Energy-efficient light fixtures
- Rainwater-capture irrigation system and porous pavers
- Light pollution reduction
- Renewable bamboo flooring
- Low-VOC paints, adhesives, and sealants
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified lumber
- Diversion of construction waste from landfills

Completed in 2004, The Tekoa Boys Home is a model for energy efficiency and environmental stewardship and is regularly utilized as a learning lab for the residents, industry colleagues, and students from area colleges and universities.

### **About Community Housing Partners**

Community Housing Partners (CHP) is a 501(c)(3) community development corporation that serves the needs of low-income and low-wealth individuals and families in the southeast. Our mission is to create affordable, green, sustainable housing opportunities and services for the people and communities we serve. Since 1975, CHP has served over 175,000 people, including elderly people, women and children in transition, formerly homeless people, single female heads-of-household, the chronically mentally ill, at-risk youth, and other individuals of low-income and low-wealth. Our activities include sustainable development, architectural design, construction, energy services, homeownership facilitation, and housing management. These efforts, in concert with public and private partnerships, enable us to create and sustain *communities of choice* that promote vitality in neighborhoods, foster wealth-building for individuals, and contribute to a better environment for future generations.

For more information about Community Housing Partners, visit [www.communityhousingpartners.org](http://www.communityhousingpartners.org), or contact:

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### **About the U.S. Green Building Council**

The U.S. Green Building Council 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 UGSBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 17,000 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](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)), and a network of 78 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

### **About LEED®**

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review

include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category. LEED can be applied to all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell developments, existing buildings, homes, neighborhood developments, schools and retail facilities. LEED for Healthcare is currently under development and is expected to be released in early 2008.

Incentives for LEED are available at the state and local level and LEED has also been adopted nationwide by federal agencies, state and local governments, and interested private companies. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED).

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