



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Historic Green's "Spring Greening" Rebuilding Event Welcomes Founding Chair, President and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council to the Lower Ninth Ward for Keynote Address

*Fedrizzi's address entitled "Green from the Ground Up: How Putting People First Changes What We Do Next"*

Rick Fedrizzi, Founding Chair, President and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) will address the New Orleans community and visiting volunteers at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 10 at All Soul's Church in the Lower Ninth Ward, a central place of inspiration and support for returning residents. Mr. Fedrizzi and USGBC have been at the forefront of the national green building movement for more than a decade, emphasizing the need for a triple-bottom-line approach to the building industry: social, economic, and environmental. The U.S. Green Building Council is perhaps best known for their green building rating system, LEED, which stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design." USGBC has made a significant ongoing commitment to post-Katrina green rebuilding initiatives by supporting green schools projects, the USGBC Louisiana Chapter and many other community projects. The organization's support for Historic Green reflects the knowledge that green building can and should benefit all people by lowering home utility bills, and therefore cost of living; improving the health of the places we live and work; and decreasing wasteful use of precious resources.

**Historic Green** assists in and lead in the transformation and restoration of distressed communities through education and service activities focusing on heritage conservation and sustainable design. The non-profit organization's third annual "Spring Greening" is a two week volunteer event in the Lower Ninth Ward in which volunteers with special interest in historic preservation and sustainable design from around the country infuse existing local organizations with people power and energetic service. Sponsor and partner organizations include: The Salvation Army, U.S. Green Building Council, Brighter Planet, The Alliance for Affordable Energy, The Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development, Preservation Resource Center's Operation Comeback, The Lower Ninth Ward Village Community Center, The Sierra Club Gulf Coast Recovery and others.

"Out of tragedy came an opportunity to dramatically improve the health of New Orleans residents and to make this fragile Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Holy Cross community more sustainable through green rebuilding and

restoration. I am honored to be invited back for the third Annual Historic Green to celebrate the tenacity and perseverance of these volunteers and to renew USGBC's commitment to supporting Holy Cross' goal of becoming the first carbon neutral community in North America." Said Rick Fedrizzi,

Last year, Historic Green's "Spring Greening" brought in 1100 volunteer days for the Lower Ninth Ward, totaling approximately \$250,000 in labor and materials for the neighborhood. Projects are organized into three categories: Green Homes, Green Community, and Green Spaces. Completed projects from 2009 include:

- Home and business repair along St. Claude
- Installation of weatherstripping and radiant barrier insulation
- Raingarden installation for stormwater control
- Playground repair to the only working playground in the neighborhood
- Restoration work on Operation Comeback homes
- Additions to the Bayou Overlook at Caffin and Florida

This year, projects will be focused in the same three categories; but volunteer days, and therefore impact, will increase to a least 1600.

The U.S. Green Building Council has supported Historic Green for the last two years, and is joining The Salvation Army, the Brighter Planet Project Fund, and several private donors to support Historic Green's work this year. USGBC has been active in Louisiana and the New Orleans area since approximately 2004, when local volunteers took steps to begin the USGBC Louisiana Chapter. After Hurricane Katrina, USGBC hired a New Orleans Green Building Coordinator, a national employee, to work directly with the Recovery School District to support their LEED certification goals and, more generally, to promote the principles of green building in New Orleans. The organization has committed over \$150,000 in LEED registration and certification fees to the Recovery School District Projects.

For more information, please contact:

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To register for the event or donate, please visit:

[www.historicgreen.org](http://www.historicgreen.org)

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