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REACH NAMED AS DESIGNEE OF NEIGHBORWORKS AMERICA 'GREEN' PROGRAM

National Program Recognizes Commitment of Organizations to Sustainable Business Practices

PORTLAND, Ore. – December 19, 2012—Today, [REACH Community Development](#) was among sixteen organizations nationally to receive the NeighborWorks Green Organization designation for our comprehensive commitment to sustainable operations from [NeighborWorks America](#)®. The designation is based on adherence to a set of green business practices across REACH's affordable housing portfolio and business operations.

Earlier this month, REACH received the designation at a ceremony in Washington, DC hosted by NeighborWorks America CEO Eileen Fitzgerald. This is the first time NeighborWorks has recognized organizations for their efforts to create healthier, energy efficient environments for homeowners, renters, community residents, and employees. REACH is among 250 organizations across the country invited to join the NeighborWorks network, a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts.

"REACH is among one of the exemplary community development organizations across the nation taking the lead to make the families, homes and communities they serve healthier and more sustainable," said Eileen Fitzgerald. "In achieving NeighborWorks' green designation, these organizations prove that green business practices are good for business, for family budgets and for community improvement."

A few examples REACH has taken to "green" our portfolio include designating all of our housing as smoke-free in 2011; monitoring all mutli-family buildings with [EnergyScoreCards](#), an energy management tool which tracks individual consumption; and achieving [LEED Platinum \(Leadership in Energy and Environmental\)](#) design on our latest development, Gray's Landing. Gray's also boasts the largest eco-roof in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan region.

"REACH believes strongly that livability and sustainability are closely aligned," says Interim Executive Director Kathy Kniep. "By incorporating renewable, energy-efficient practices into our current and future affordable housing developments, REACH is promoting greater environmental and social health for our community and the planet. We're proud to have received this important designation from NeighborWorks America."



A healthy community begins at home

About REACH CDC

For 30 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Portland metropolitan region. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to our residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, REACH's portfolio includes 1,607 units including single family homes, apartment buildings, and mixed-use developments located across the region. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information is available at <http://reachcdc.org>.

About NeighborWorks® America

More information is available at nw.org. For nearly 35 years, NeighborWorks America has created opportunities for people to improve their lives and strengthen their communities by providing access to homeownership and to safe and affordable rental housing. In the last five years, NeighborWorks organizations have generated more than \$19.5 billion in reinvestment in these communities. NeighborWorks America is the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals.

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