



MEDIA ADVISORY

January 26, 2006

THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PARTNERS WITH THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF URBAN FORESTRY

Partnership Establishes Awards of Excellence for Community Trees and Urban Forestry

The U.S. Conference of Mayors in partnership with the Home Depot Foundation today announced the Award of Excellence for Community Trees recognition program designed to acknowledge outstanding local initiatives on urban forestry at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The Home Depot Foundation believes that the urban forest is one of the essential building blocks for healthy, livable communities impacting our social, economic and overall well being. In addition, The Home Depot Foundation strongly believes that the simple act of planting a tree has the power to be the catalyst for profound community change.

Awards will be presented to a winner and runner up in two population categories – cities with fewer than 100,000 people, and cities with 100,000 or more. Within each category two grant awards will be made – \$75,000 to the winning project and \$25,000 to the second most competitive project. The grants will be awarded to the winning cities' nonprofit partner to be used at their discretion to further the goal of promoting healthy communities through tree planting and the management of the urban forest. The first awards will be given at the Conference of Mayors 74th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas being held June 2-6, 2006.

Project winners will be selected by an independent Advisory Committee comprised of experts in the field of urban forestry, environment and sustainable community development.

In addition to the Awards of Excellence, the Conference in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation will form a task force of mayors to further examine the benefits of community trees and ways mayors can better promote community forestry programs in their cities.

The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community building goals of the The Home Depot by providing additional resources to assist nonprofit organizations building affordable, efficient and healthy homes throughout the United States and Canada. The Home Depot Foundation administers grant-making programs in the areas of "Affordable Housing, Built Responsibly" and "Community Trees – Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Community and Wildland Forests." Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$25 million to nonprofit and government organizations throughout North America.

U.S. Council of Mayors

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.

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