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CONTACT:

Vernon Thomas

Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI Atlanta)

Voice: 404-766-7179, Ext 23

FAX: 404-768-7767

Email: Vernon@ahqi.com

Website: www.nariatlanta.org

“Circle of Good” Pilot Project

ATLANTA, GA June 25, 2006 – The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI Atlanta): ‘Circle of Good’ Pilot Project Has Goal of Reducing Waste from Remodeling Jobs

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s Atlanta chapter has initiated an innovative pilot program to teach remodelers ways to reduce the volume of waste from deconstruction and salvage usable items from their projects.

Known as the NARI Atlanta Circle of Good Deconstruction and Recycling Program, the project is being handled through the outreach committee of the Atlanta NARI chapter. Work on the initial pilot projects got under way this spring, and results are expected to be compiled by summer’s end with the final report due in September.

Goals of the program include reducing the amount of waste from remodeling projects deposited in landfills; identifying valuable materials diverted from the waste stream by salvaging them from worksites and donating them to various non-profit organizations for their reuse or using other appropriate methods of recycling; and developing a toolkit to help NARI members incorporate recycling into their operations.

Circle of Good financial partners thus far include InterContinental Hotel Group (IHG), which funded the initial study for the program; SEMCO, the producer of the Atlanta Home Show, which donated \$1,000 to help fund the program as well as providing free exhibit space for pilot project participants at upcoming trade shows; and 1-800-GOT-JUNK? which will provide \$2,000 of in-kind debris removal services to the program.

Managing the pilot program is Carl Seville, whose Decatur-based company, Seville Consulting, was established to assist homeowners and building professionals in creating healthy, efficient, and durable buildings by incorporating sustainable practices into their homes and businesses. Seville is also working with NARI Atlanta outreach committee members to develop the toolkit resulting from the pilot program.

Three Atlanta remodeling firms are carrying out the initial Circle of Good pilot projects. These include:

- Summers & Sons, a third generation full service general contractor based in Tucker, which is renovating 34 apartments into condominiums. Summers & Sons is a company with extensive experience in both renovations and new homes.

- Pinnacle Custom Builders, owned by Robert Soens of Decatur, is adding a second story and making other renovations to a bungalow in downtown Decatur. This firm specializes in renovations and new homes and is currently building the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified new home in Decatur.
- Atlanta Design & Build is making interior renovations in an executive home in Country Club of the South. Founded in 1996 by Dale Contant, this Marietta firm provides design/build services including kitchens, bathrooms, decks, porches, and whole houses renovations.

All three Circle of Good pilot projects are in progress, and each of the three contractors has identified materials that either have or will be removed from the waste stream through reuse on site, sale for profit, donation to a non-profit organization, or recycled through other methods.

The contractors are providing regular reports on diverted material and their experiences with both non-profit and for-profit recycling resources. A consultant will collect data from the reports and conduct interviews with the contractors, and this material will be utilized to develop the toolkit for NARI members for their future use. In addition, future plans include classroom training for NARI members to be developed with assistance from the pilot program participants, who will also prepare a report for the outreach committee on the successes and challenges of the program.

Seville said the National NARI organization has shown interest in the Atlanta chapter's Circle of Good program with the possibility that the effort will be expanded further.

ABOUT NARI: The National Association of the Remodeling Industry is the only association dedicated solely to the remodeling industry. With more than 6,000 members nationally and over 300 in Atlanta, NARI brings together people in the remodeling industry who are dedicated to being the best resource for knowledge and training in their fields. NARI provides ongoing training and certification for its member-contractors. The NARI remodeling contractor is pledged to uphold the association's Code of Ethics and is dedicated to the professionalism and integrity of the remodeling industry. For more information, please visit the website www.nariatlanta.org.

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