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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Institute for Healthy Living Recognized for Being “Green”
Awarded Prestigious LEED® Green Building Certification

LONGVIEW (December 15, 2009) – The Good Shepherd Institute for Healthy Living announced today that it has been awarded LEED® Gold Certification, established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

“Our commitment to creating a healthier future for the residents of Longview and the East Texas area remains strong. We are proud to have not only built a facility that is improving the health of East Texans but that is also good for our environment,” said Ed Banos, CEO, Good Shepherd Medical Center.

The Institute achieved LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified building save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “The Institute for Healthy Living project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come.”

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

- A reflective white roof to reduce heat and cooling requirements
- Pervious pavement that allows rainwater to soak naturally into the soil
- Temperature control with room monitoring sensors for automatic adjustments
- Solar-powered heating system for indoor pools
- Open space and aquatic based habitat for wild critters
- Reduction of water use by more than 40% over conventional plumbing designs
- Preferred parking for drivers of high efficiency vehicles

- Solatubes “Light Pipes” introduce daylight throughout the fitness floor.
- Locally extracted/processed/manufactured materials were used to reduce transportation related energy consumption.
- Rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo and cork were used throughout the building as finishes for floors and walls.

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U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 100,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. The USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system is the preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. 35,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED system, comprising over 5.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 91 countries. By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. USGBC was co-founded by current President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi, who spent 25 years as a Fortune 500 executive. Under his 15-year leadership, the organization has become the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, influential, education and research organization in the nation. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.