

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NHS of Southwest Wisconsin Recognized as Green Organization

Neighborhood Housing Services of Southwest Wisconsin (NHSSW) is proud to announce they have been recognized for their excellence in sustainable business and housing practices by NeighborWorks America. NHSSW is member, along with 61 other NeighborWorks America members that have earned the NeighborWorks Green Organization designation, joining 11 others from the Midwest Region.

The NeighborWorks Green Organization program celebrates community development nonprofits that demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to sustainable operations – both the lines of business they conduct and the corporate operations that they run. Together, these green organizations demonstrate that when sustainable practices are comprehensively applied, people are healthier, homes are more affordable, employees have a better work environment, communities thrive, and organizations are more prepared for the future.

“Everyone benefits from green, sustainable living – families, businesses and communities,” said Chuck Wehrwein, acting chief executive officer of NeighborWorks America. “The organizations that receive this designation from NeighborWorks America show that green business practices improve people’s health and well-being.”

According to Operations Manager, Chelsea Wunnicke, NHSSW has been committed to running their office and housing programs as efficiently as possible for a long time. She explained that, “receiving the Green Designation is a way of affirming the commitment that our board made to environmental consciousness in 2009. We’ve been finding ways to incorporate green initiatives ever since, and it is nice to be recognized as part of a bigger movement for that effort.”

One of NHSSW’s the key accomplishments in providing green community engagement was leading the Going Greener class in 2011 using the book EnAct: Steps for Greener Living by Sonya Newenhouse, Pd.D. Richland County resident Mary Hanrahan participated in Going Greener and was interviewed earlier this year regarding the class. “Local speakers presented on green resources available in our own community. I had no idea there was so much right here!” Find more of Mary’s story at <http://neighborworks.org/Media-Center/Stories/2014/Book-inspired-community-greening>. Eight other Richland County residents participated in the class.

Additionally, all NHSSW-built new homes are constructed using Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home and Green Built standards, including one currently underway on Ward Street in Richland Center, which will be for sale in spring 2015. The Park Hotel Senior Citizen Apartments, owned and managed by NHSSW in downtown Richland Center, is currently undergoing an energy efficiency program through the Enterprise Community Foundation.

NHS of Southwest Wisconsin is a non-profit, community controlled organization. NHS is committed to educating and empowering residents in order to revitalize our community, with a focus on affordable housing services. For more information, please contact the NHS office at 647-4949 or go to nhsrwi.org. For more information about the green designation, go to NeighborWorks.org/Green. Neighborhood Housing Services of Southwest Wisconsin is an Equal Housing and Employment Opportunity Provider.