

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HCG Working with Martin County Habitat for Humanity**

### **HCG Helps East Stuart Go Green**

**Stuart, Florida - November, 2009**

HCG, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity of Martin County have joined forces in an effort to provide 'green' affordable homes to well-deserving area residents. Michael Houston, Principal of HCG was recently named President of the Habitat Board of Directors. In addition, HCG's LEED® AP Robin Pelensky guided Habitat through a grant application process which led to the non-profit group securing a \$100,000 grant from the City of Stuart to support the City's and Habitat's goal of building affordable and energy efficient homes in the East Stuart community. The grant requires that homes built with the proceeds be designed and constructed to a recognized green standard. Although the City does not require that Habitat go through an actual certification process, Habitat's Executive Director Margot Graff said she fully anticipates that the homes will be built to meet LEED® Gold standards upon completion.

HCG is also participating in the East Stuart Green Build Program. A community 'Topping Off' event is planned for early next year to celebrate the roof-raising on the first 'green' Habitat home planned for the East Stuart area.

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

Since its inception in 1987, Habitat for Humanity of Martin County has built more than 81 houses in Hobe Sound, Indiantown, Jensen Beach, Port Salerno and Stuart.

#### **U.S. Green Building Council**

The U.S. Green Building Council is a non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation.

#### **Houston Cuozzo Group, Inc.**

Founded in 1993, HCG is a land planning and landscape architectural firm committed to designing sustainable projects that meet community needs, produce balanced growth, are financially feasible for our clients and create positive economic value for their community. The firm is experienced with the nationally known rating system LEED developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, as well as green rating standards recognized by the NAHB National Green Building Program, Florida Green Building Coalition and Audubon International.

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