



THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY BY GRANTING NEARLY \$1 MILLION TO COMMUNITY FORESTRY GROUPS

ATLANTA, APRIL 29, 2005 – In an effort to raise awareness about the economic, environmental and health benefits of healthy urban forests, The Home Depot® Foundation today announced it will award grants totaling nearly \$1 million to three leading nonprofit community forestry organizations: National Alliance for Community Trees, The National Arbor Day Foundation® and American Forests®. These grants will further support The Home Depot Foundation’s objective of working with nonprofit partners to restore urban and rural forests in order to create healthier natural areas and a better environment for communities. Over the past two years, The Home Depot Foundation has supported a variety of forestry initiatives by granting \$2.2 million to help more than 40 organizations dedicated to planting and conserving trees.

“Our foundation works with affordable housing and tree-planting organizations across the country to promote livable, healthy and affordable communities. By forming partnerships with these organizations, we are furthering our shared mission of creating a healthier environment,” said Kelly Caffarelli, executive director of The Home Depot Foundation.

National Alliance for Community Trees was awarded \$500,000 from The Home Depot Foundation. Sixty percent of this grant will be redistributed to local tree planting organizations across the United States. These individual grants will range from \$7,500 to \$20,000 each. The grants, expected to be awarded during the second half of 2005, will be used to fund volunteer activities to plant thousands of trees in communities across the country.

The National Arbor Day Foundation will receive \$410,000 for Arbor Day tree plantings in 2006. This Foundation will work with local schools, community volunteers, and The Home Depot and its supplier partners to support The National Arbor Day Foundation tree plantings in 10 cities during 2006 state and national Arbor Day celebrations, which take place from January through May. These tree-planting events will be led by Team Depot, The Home Depot’s volunteer corps of associates. The markets are expected to be selected this year.

(more)

American Forests will receive a grant from The Home Depot Foundation to support the organization's Global ReLeaf program to sponsor the planting of 25,000 trees. Additionally, The Home Depot Foundation will be the presenting corporate sponsor of its 2005 National Conference on Urban Ecosystems to be held in Charlotte from November 17–18, 2005. This annual event draws nearly 1,000 foresters, local tree planting organizations, and other federal and state representatives interested in improving urban environments.

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 “Healthy Community and Wildland Forests.” Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$15 million to nonprofit and government organizations throughout North America.

###

For more information, please contact:

Sheryll Campbell

The Home Depot

(770) 384-4395

sheryll_campbell@homedepot.com