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**HISTORIC BUILDING CONVERTED
TO 'HEALTHY AND GREEN' OFFICE SPACE**

OFFICE IN HISTORIC BALTIMORE BUILDING OPENS OCTOBER 16

BALTIMORE, MD - A Baltimore-based public health advocacy group is practicing what it preaches by opening a "healthy and green" office filled with non-toxic furnishings and recycled materials.

The Trust for America's Health (TFAH), an advocacy group working to protect the health of communities, has built its new office space with reused materials and other products free of toxic chemicals known to cause eye irritation, trigger asthma attacks and skin rashes.

The group opens its new national office on October 16 in a refurbished historic office building at 616 Water Street in downtown Baltimore. STUDIOS Architecture donated its time and persuaded more than ten other companies to donate materials and labor to TFAH's "healthy and green" office.

"Our group works to protect the health of our communities. It only makes sense that we first ensure the health of our very own workers by creating a safe, non-toxic workplace," said Dr. Shelley Hearne, TFAH's executive director. "Everyday, we're acting on the mantra of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."

In addition to opening its new offices, TFAH is also launching its Community Health Forum, a discussion area on the group's Web site where people can post health concerns in their communities. Internet users can log onto to www.healthyamericans.org/forum and ask questions or comment on such topics as a nationwide health tracking network, chronic diseases in local communities and potential environmental exposures in the community and what to do about them.

Products used in TFAH's new office include 100 percent recycled wood and carpeting. All of the partitions and much of the furniture are constructed from formaldehyde-free medium density fiber-board (MDF). Formaldehyde found in most pressed wood products is known to cause severe allergic reactions, such as wheezing, coughing and eye irritation.

TFAH's recycled carpeting was donated by the Milliken Carpet Company, and is free of volatile organic compounds which can cause eye, skin and respiratory irritation, and in some cases even cancer. STUDIOS reused much of the existing structure of the historic building and recycled materials such as partitions, light fixtures, ceilings, windows, electrical systems and HVAC units.

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“Working with our partners who generously donated to this project, we were able to create a healthy work environment and preserve the beauty of one of Baltimore’s historic waterfront buildings,” said Todd DeGarmo, managing principal at STUDIOS Architecture.

Companies who donated to the project are: The Cordish Company; Brown Construction Company, Inc.; C.N. Robinson Lighting Supply Co.; FloorTec; Forbo Industries; Interior Elements; Knoll, Inc.; Eco-Tech Coatings, and Milliken Commercial Carpet.

An open house will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2001 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The office is located at 616 Water Street, Suite 317, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is a new, non-profit public health advocacy organization that is taking action to prevent disease and protect the health of our communities. TFAH's objectives are to advocate for health policies that protect our communities' health; develop tools to effectively tackle today's health problems; and give everyone the information they need to understand and fight disease. For more information log on to www.healthyamericans.org.

STUDIOS Architecture is a worldwide company with local offices in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.

For pictures of TFAH's office or more information from Studios, call 202-736-5947 or visit their web site at www.studiosarch.com.

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