

**For Immediate Release**

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### ICCF Achieves GOLD Level L.E.E.D. Certification

The Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) will hold a Media Event on May 27 at 1:00pm to announce that the U.S. Green Building Council concluded their review of ICCF's application for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The application was given a final point total of 45, squarely in the middle of the GOLD range. This means that 920 Cherry is now officially certified as a LEED-GOLD building. The award will be unveiled at the May 27 event.

Given current environmental concerns, natural resource stewardship is an important value worthy of attention for everyone. CEO Jonathan Bradford says, "As a Christian ministry, we have a particular calling to set high standards in all aspects of building design, maintenance and operation. That is what ICCF has done here at 920 Cherry. Certification by the USGBC is the primary way that such matters are measured and recognized."

Achieving GOLD level with a new structure is not uncommon. But to achieve GOLD level with a historic restoration project is remarkable. ICCF is the first historic restoration project in Michigan to receive such recognition. Cornerstone Architects and Rockford Construction worked diligently to make it possible. Currently there are only two GOLD LEED certified buildings in the state that achieved more points than ICCF did. Having received this GOLD certification, the very building itself becomes a testimony to the community about good stewardship. ICCF hopes that their example results in other non-profits making similar choices.

"The recent LEED certification of ICCF's corporate headquarters is a huge accomplishment for the team, ICCF, Cornerstone Architects and Rockford. It was an honor to be involved in not only constructing a sustainable building, but in helping solidify and strengthen a mission of sustainability, of social and environmental awareness and a sense of who we are as urban core revivalists in Grand Rapids. We congratulate ICCF on this certification and thank our project team, subcontractors, ICCF staff and ICCF Executive Director, Jonathan Bradford for his vision and faith in Rockford Construction" noted Rockford President/CEO Mike VanGessel.

Features of the building that earned LEED points include:

- Natural light from 173 windows
- Rooftop solar panels
- Recycling of materials from demolition work
- Porous asphalt and underlying materials to absorb parking lot rainwater
- Roof storm water drainage to underground cistern for landscape maintenance

- Low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Carpets of recycled materials
- Computer controlled HVAC system
- Low-E argon windows
- Sprayed on insulation
- Showers to encourage employee exercise
- Restored terrazzo flooring and oak woodwork
- Smoke-free environment
- Proximity to public transportation
- Lights that function on a motion-detector system

ICCF is Michigan's oldest non-profit affordable housing provider, offering affordable housing opportunities and services to low-income families since 1974. ICCF builds or reconstructs new single-family homes each year for home ownership and provides home ownership opportunities and educational services for up to 3000 families annually. To date ICCF has completed nearly 500 units of affordable housing in the Grand Rapids community. At its current pace ICCF will serve 800 local families with foreclosure intervention this year. A break-even budget requires \$1.0 – 1.5 million in charitable contributions annually.