

Press Release

Contact: Anne Bernstein
Phone: (619) 235-6884, ext 307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 A.M. PDT, January 11, 2008

Urban Corps of San Diego County Announces Capital Campaign To Fund Growth and Expand Facilities to Benefit San Diego's At-Risk Youth

Urban Corps of San Diego County announced it is moving forward with an extensive capital campaign to help fund continued expansion of services and facilities at their Midway Site. The completed capital projects being undertaken will cost nearly \$6 million. Since 2003 Urban Corps has quietly raised \$3.9 million through an innovative campaign combining public, private, and earned income funding. The Corps has set a capital campaign goal to raise \$2.1 million of the total expansion costs within the community over the next few years.

Mrs. Charlotte Nielsen, philanthropist, retired business woman, community activist, and extraordinary volunteer is chairing the Urban Corps' campaign initiative. Mrs. Nielsen has been an active member of the San Diego community since 1945 when she and her husband, S. Falck Nielsen, started the Nielsen Construction Company which eventually became the largest construction company in San Diego. Mrs. Nielsen is past president of the Social Service Auxiliary and the Thursday Club; she was active in the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary and a founding member of Freedom's Foundation, MADCAP's (Mother's and Daughter's Clubs Assisting Philanthropies), USD Auxiliary, and the Millennium Society. She has served as president of the San Diego Police Foundation Board, chaired both the Symphony and Mercy Balls, and has been honored by the Salvation Army, Temple Beth Israel, and the Women's International Center.

Mrs. Nielsen, who has served on the Urban Corps' Board of Director's since 2004 said, "I am proud to be associated with the Urban Corps. It is the only organization in San Diego that bridges youth, employment, education and civic responsibility with the environment. The green-building expansion and renovation will provide a fully integrated, green modeled state-of-the art learning laboratory which will expose corps

members to the latest technology available within the environmental industry and serve as a gang-neutral space, promoting sustainability and guaranteeing safe and accessible learning.”

Board President Michael Sterns, who kicked-off the campaign initiative at the Corps’ annual holiday luncheon and award ceremony explained, “After almost 20 years and 5 different locations we see this project as a bridge to the future to sustain our mission of using quality programming, high caliber staff, and a unique philosophy to level the playing field for young people. Our immediate objective is to improve our technology infrastructure, enlarge and update our classrooms and operations center, and build additional vocational centers; so that Urban Corps can provide greater opportunities and assistance for San Diego’s at-risk youth to acquire much-needed technology and job skills, a high school diploma, and a better chance for success. In the past two years alone we have doubled the number of youth in our program. Our efforts are to ensure that we remain totally prepared both now and in the future to offer unparalleled service to the youth and communities of San Diego. Our campaign focus is to cultivate life-long friends and donors to generate capital support and solidify the legacy of the Urban Corps for generations to come. To further sustain this incredible program, one percent of monies raised will go to our endowment at the San Diego Foundation.”

There are many meaningful gift recognition opportunities, including the opportunity to name a major room or wing, classrooms, vocational centers, or libraries. The Urban Corps welcomes and appreciates the support of the community.

For more information about the Capital Campaign, and ways to give, contact Anne Bernstein, Director of Development at 619-235-6884.

About Urban Corps

Urban Corps (founded in 1989) provides job training and educational opportunities to young adults in the fields of conservation, recycling and community service which will assist youth in becoming more employable, while protecting San Diego’s natural resources and instilling the importance of community involvement.

Our full-time work/educational program offers participants environmental community service work projects while attending school. Corps members receive a regular pay check for their work on: recycling; planting trees; canyon restoration; graffiti clean up; community improvement projects; trail building and maintenance.

Corps members attend the on-site John Muir Charter School, which combines a high standard of vocational, academic and civic education. They are also involved in an intensive Corps-to-Career program that keeps educational, career, and personal goals on track and teaches flexibility and leadership.

-End-