

Media Contacts:

Ania Czarnecka or Lynn Hancock

713-869-0707

aczarnecka@wardcc.com or lhancock@wardcc.com

For immediate release

CoreNet Houston Volunteers Spruce Up the Last Organic Outpost Annual Reinvestment Project Focuses on Houston's Fifth Ward

(Houston, June 12, 2015) – More than 50 CoreNet Houston volunteers recently grabbed their shovels, wheelbarrows and pitchforks and donated their Saturday to make significant improvements to the Last Organic Outpost – a resource for locally-grown food and educational hub for local schools in Houston's Fifth Ward.

As Houston's leading corporate real estate trade organization, CoreNet members annually identify a worthy project in the Houston area as the recipient of the organization's community reinvestment effort. Co-chaired by Regina Trippie and Barry Weiner, this year's project raised \$4,800 in cash donations for the effort and more than \$8,000 in in-kind services.

"It's gratifying to see how CoreNet members step up each year to join in our efforts to give back to the Houston community in a meaningful way," stated Weiner. "By combining our cash and in-kind services, we are able to truly make a difference in the community."

This year's project, the Last Organic Outpost located at 711 Emile Street, is a research farm working to expand a movement to create a local food economy that employs people and provides access to healthy food. Along with running the Emile Street Community Learning Farm, Last Organic Outpost is currently focusing its efforts on the neglected 5th Ward "food desert" to initiate the growth of *Food Everywhere* by building home gardens and a neighborhood-wide orchard of fruit & nut trees in homes and public spaces; to train farmers in sustainable, environmentally-sound methods and establish a local food economy based on the creation of local farms and food-related businesses in the Fifth Ward; and to host community events to teach area residents about healthy nutrition, urban agriculture and sustainability.

CoreNet members with SWA Group developed a master plan for the project which included building, installing and landscaping a new entry fence; building tree planters, raised planters and seating; installing a chicken coop fence; building a tool shed; and planting a vegetable food garden.

"Our volunteers worked tirelessly over two weekends to complete the work," stated co-chair Regina Trippie. "The new entry fence opens up the garden and makes the space more visible to the surrounding neighborhood. We hope that it will encourage increased community involvement in the many activities and educational opportunities provided by the Last Organic Outpost."

Over the past 10 years CoreNet's Community Reinvestment program has contributed more than \$300,000 in cash and in-kind donations to numerous community projects within the Houston area.

About CoreNet Houston: [CoreNet Global](#) is the premier international association for corporate real estate professionals convening the entire industry. The mission of the [Houston Chapter](#) is to connect groups of professionals, end users and service providers in order to advance knowledge, promote personal excellence and add value to each individual and their respective enterprise by offering a variety of diversified programs that provide members educational and networking opportunities.

About The Last Organic Outpost: The Last Organic Outpost generates healthy communities and establishes a local food economy in Houston's under-served neighborhoods through urban farming and farm-based art & education. We empower communities through sustainable agriculture that teaches residents to produce safe, healthy and accessible food for all. We envision growing 'Food Everywhere' and seeding an Urban Agricultural District that cultivates our region's food and supports local farmers to thrive despite economic, environmental, health and social challenges.

###