



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midwest Groundcovers Spearheads Hesed House Landscape Beautification Project

(July XX, 2011) - Hesed House, an Aurora, Illinois based organization that provides extensive social services to the very poor and homeless, has a beautiful new landscape for staff and guests to enjoy.

This exciting landscape beautification project, completed Friday, May 27, 2011, was a three-year labor of love for Midwest Groundcovers of St. Charles, Illinois and contributing partners Bartlett Tree Experts of Woodridge, Illinois, The Savanna Group of North Aurora, Illinois, Twin Oaks Landscaping of Oswego, Illinois, and Midwest Trading of St. Charles, Illinois.

The Hesed House property, which had once been the Municipal Incinerator for city of Aurora, Illinois, had long been in dire need of refreshment. Throughout the years, Midwest Groundcovers has been a financial supporter of Hesed House's invaluable social programs, and the landscape beautification project was a natural extension of this relationship. The concept for beautification occurred during a 2007 holiday visit to Hesed House, when Midwest's Vice President, Christa Orum-Keller, and the Midwest Groundcovers Charity committee were touring the facility. Midwest was seeking further opportunities to aid Hesed House, and Debbie Harrington, Deacon and Assistant Program Director for the PADS A.M. program (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) at Hesed House, expressed concerns about the building's landscape. Specifically, the inclined land adjacent to a main stairwell was both an eyesore and a safety hazard, as rainwater would flow freely down the hill and create a muddy and potentially dangerous mess.

Orum-Keller and Midwest were eager to find a solution to Hesed House's landscape issues. The \$20,000 landscaping project began in 2008, when Twin Oaks Landscaping donated the materials and tools for the installation of two sets of retaining walls. An Eagle Scout working toward a merit badge donated his time and service to the project and worked with his father to build the retaining walls.

The 2011 Hesed House landscape beautification initiatives included professional tree pruning services provided by Bartlett Tree Experts, and the clearing and landscaping of an entrance area at the south end of the Hesed House complex.

A crew headed by Tim Caldwell from The Savanna Group cleared the land of weeds, infused the soil with nutrient-rich blended compost and installed 844 plants. The \$10,000 worth of plants were provided by Midwest Groundcovers and included seventy-two Boxwood and a variety of Tiarella, Asarum, Carex, and other shade plants. The area was then finished with mulch furnished by Midwest Trading, who also provided the compost for soil preparation.

Hesed House expressed its appreciation for the stunning landscape transformation in a compelling statement to Midwest Groundcovers and the rest of the project team. Said the Hesed House staff of the

landscape: “People’s lives are a direct reflection of what they are surrounded by...The visual that has been created by your gift of the garden brings a beauty to the entrance where our guests come into their temporary home. Nothing lifts the heart and gives a person a reason to have hope more than glimpses of beauty that have been created out of the love of someone's heart.”

Hesed House, which opened in 1985, was founded on a mission of four goals: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give people the opportunity to have hope again. The organization provides a wide array of services to the very poor and homeless including emergency shelters, transitional housing, food pantries, soup kitchens, medical and legal clinics, job coaching, and counseling. For specific information on this organization or to find out how you can help, please visit the Hesed House website at www.hesedhouse.org.

Midwest Groundcovers LLC is an industry leader in the propagation, growing, and wholesale distribution of quality container nursery stock. The company operates over 300 acres of state-of-the-art nursery production facilities at five locations in St. Charles, Illinois, Virgil, Illinois, and Glenn, Michigan. Each year, these facilities produce millions of containerized plants including more than 100 different ground cover varieties; over 250 species of Local Eco-Type Native Plants identified as *Natural Garden Natives*[™], in addition to 140 regional Midwest native species of which some are naturally occurring selections; more than 500 varieties of perennials and ornamental grasses; and over 170 varieties of deciduous shrubs, native shrubs, broadleaf evergreens, hardy shrub roses, conifers, and vines.

Midwest Groundcovers LLC garners frequent press coverage through regional media outlets and is regularly featured in major trade publications such as *The Landscape Contractor*.

Visit Midwest Groundcovers LLC on the web at www.midwestgroundcovers.com Learn more about *Natural Garden Natives*[™], our Local Eco-type Native Plants, by visiting www.naturalgardennatives.com.

For more information about Midwest's key partners on the Hesed House beautification project, please visit the following websites:

Bartlett Tree Experts: www.bartlett.com

Twin Oak Landscaping: www.twinoakslandscaping.com

The Savanna Group: www.thesavannagroup.com

Midwest Trading: www.midwest-trading.com