

ShoreBank Enterprise Cleveland
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cleveland--(April 22, 2008) – Students from the Entrepreneurship Preparatory School joined friends of the Glenville community today to begin transforming a neglected paved lot into the city’s first working “Asphalt Garden.”

The garden will provide greater access to nutritious food for local residents and an opportunity for nearly 20 middle school students to learn about nutrition and gain experience managing a sustainable small business. The students joined representatives from Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) and ShoreBank Enterprise Cleveland to learn how to begin growing and maintaining the Garden located at the ShoreBank Enterprise Center (SEC) that is being built on top of asphalt by layering a foot of wood chips, cardboard and newspapers, straw, organic matter, and finally topsoil.



The students will grow a variety of vegetables and herbs on the raised bed garden that they will harvest, sell and distribute to local markets for purchase to consumers. “I’m excited by the idea of young adults in our community growing fresh produce in the city for Clevelanders who are without access to nutritious and affordable produce,” said Peter McDermott, an E4S representative who demonstrated for the students how to plant the garden. “At the same time, it is pretty amazing to consider that a garden has the power to transform a blighted lot into a beautiful, productive classroom.”

In addition to SEC and ES4, the students are being assisted by additional tenants in the Enterprise Center who are contributing resources and time to the project.

ShoreBank Enterprise CEO Mary Ann Stropkay noted, “The garden demonstrates the potential for what can be accomplished when a bridge between conservation and economic development is built. By working cooperatively with people committed to strengthening the community we can create a model for building a healthier, stronger community that can be replicated through out the city.”

Glenville residents are welcome to join the students and others in the neighborhood in tending to the garden. For additional information about the garden or volunteering, contact Mr. Calhoun at SEC at 216-681-8963.



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About ShoreBank Enterprise Cleveland (SEC)

SEC is a nonprofit community and economic development organization whose mission is investing in people and their communities to create economic equity and a healthy environment. SEC focuses on city-based, early-stage and growing companies, especially minority-owned firms that are located on the city's East-Side, and companies that, through their products, services, or work processes contribute to a healthy local environment.

SEC utilizes two investment funds to provide non-traditional investments to companies that are not ready for traditional bank financing. Customers receive technical assistance and brokered workforce solutions that help the business secure qualified workers. Finally, businesses can find affordable commercial space in SEC's Glenville Enterprise Center.

About Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (E-Prep)

Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (E Prep) is a premier choice school sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. 100% of the students who are fortunate to enroll at E Prep School are going to college after graduation. E Prep is a growing urban community (charter) school endorsed by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. We are located in the Glenville area and will educate 6th and 7th graders next school year. We offer an extended school day and school year, half-day Saturday classes for students who need extra help, a highly structured environment, and a culture of high academic and behavioral achievement that includes uniforms and tutoring.

About Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S)

E4S is a diverse network of over 5,000 leaders who are putting the principles of sustainability into action. We started building the E4S Network in 2000 with the classic entrepreneurs and have attracted the entrepreneurial thinkers, the change agents from business, government, academia and non-profit sectors of our community.

What we share is a belief that sustainability principles are drivers for new business opportunities and tools to improve our quality of life. Together we are building a sustainable economy in Northeast Ohio that will create prosperity and total community health.

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