

For Immediate Release

Ignatius House Awarded Assessment Grant from The Community Foundation's Grants to Green Program *Grant Provides Energy Audit, Assessment and More*

ATLANTA, July 30, 2009 - [Ignatius House](#), a retreat center located on the Chattahoochee River in Sandy Springs was awarded an assessment grant from The Community Foundation's [Grants to Green](#) Program. The award includes a professional review of the environmental efficiency, including energy and utility use, of the main retreat building at Ignatius House to determine areas for improvement. [Southface](#), a partner in the Grants for Green program will provide the professional assessment this summer.

"For nearly 50 years, we've seen the very personal and profound impact of silent, spiritual retreats on people who come here," said Bob Fitzgerald, executive director of Ignatius House. "Now, Grants for Green will allow us to determine how we impact the environment and help us understand how we can be better stewards of God's creation." Once an assessment has been completed, Ignatius House will be eligible to apply for a grant for implementation funding up to \$50,000 matching grant from the Grants to Green program.

In the last year, Ignatius House started its own internal "green initiative." Looking over the easiest of solutions within their immediate reach, the retreat center started by eliminating all use of Styrofoam products in the dining and break-room areas. From there, they reassessed their menu and began to source produce and products from local Georgia growers. "We've received a tremendous amount of support and positive feedback from retreatants who suggested and are thankful for even these small steps," added Fitzgerald.

Open to men and women of all faiths and backgrounds, Ignatius House hosts silent, spiritual retreats allowing individuals to take a break from the material world and become closer to God by surrounding themselves with and embracing God's beautiful creation. During the weekend, the retreat director presents a series of brief 30-minute talks, based on scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. These exercises are designed to provide an opportunity for personal renewal in faith and an awareness of the love and peace initiated by God. The rest of the time on retreat is for personal, quiet meditation. Individuals value the silence and solitude that are conducive to experiencing God's presence, rest, reflection and renewal.

About the Jesuit Center at Ignatius House

Ignatius House (www.ignatiushouse.org) is the place to unleash yourself from the digital world and experience the spiritual one. Open to men and women of all faiths and backgrounds, Ignatius House offers silent, guided retreats. It is owned and operated by the Jesuit Fathers and Brothers of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus and is the only center located in Georgia. The retreat center is named after Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a sixteenth-century nobleman and the founder of the Jesuit Order. The Spiritual Exercises that are practiced are based on the notes that St. Ignatius himself made as he underwent his own spiritual conversion at Manresa, Spain. Ignatius House is located on more than 20 peaceful acres along the Chattahoochee River in Sandy Springs, Georgia, a northwest suburb of Atlanta.

About Grants to Green

Grants to Green provides environmentally focused knowledge and funding to strengthen nonprofits. This partnership between The Community Foundation, [Southface](#) and [Enterprise Community Partners](#) gives metro Atlanta nonprofits the opportunity to renovate or build healthier work places that are energy and water efficient and environmentally efficient. The ultimate goal is to improve a nonprofit organization's building structure to not only have less of an environmental impact, but also to increase the cost-efficiency of operations, ideally saving more finances to provide more services.

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Key Web Address:

Ignatius House: www.ignatiushouse.org

The Community Foundation Grants to Green Program: <http://www.cfgreateratlanta.org/Community-Initiatives/Current-Initiatives/Grants-to-Green.aspx>

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