



## THE GRODEN CENTER, INC.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Groden Greenhouse transformed by Rebuilding Together and Brown University volunteers**

PROVIDENCE, RI – On a beautiful, breezy Saturday morning, about fifty Brown University volunteers came to the Greenhouse in the North Burial Ground to help accomplish an inspirational transformation. April 29 marked National Rebuild Day 2006, organized by Rebuilding Together and its local chapters. Volunteer groups across the country participated in an effort to revitalize houses, communities, and the physical sites of non-profit agencies.

The once abandoned greenhouse has flourished under the care of The Groden Network for Autism since 1995. As a vocational site, clients sample and learn a variety of skills, including arts, crafts and digital photography. However, training is focused on greenhouse operations such as planting seeds, watering, crop transplantation, arranging flowers, delivering plants to customers, and customer relations.

But while the inside of the Greenhouse teemed with blossoming beauty, the building itself and the grounds were in need of some tender care. Therefore, Brown University volunteers worked all day on a myriad of projects including: installing a fence; making a new concrete walkway and

landscaping it; building a reception counter; installing floor to ceiling shelving in the head house; creating loft space; painting the interior; and replacing and repairing glass in the greenhouse proper.

“We can hardly believe how many improvements were made in such a short time, and are deeply appreciative of everyone’s time and effort,” said Deb Romano, Greenhouse Manager. “The Greenhouse has never looked better! Learning to work independently is a source of pride for all of our clients at the Greenhouse – so by giving them a better working environment, these volunteers have directly affected their lives in a positive way. Thank you to all of the Brown University volunteers for helping to make our Greenhouse a better place for our clients to learn and grow.”

The Groden Network delivers the largest number of services in Rhode Island for children and adults with autism and related disorders, operating three day programs and fifteen residential facilities. As a full-service facility, the Greenhouse is open to the public for sales. Greenhouse hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm and Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

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