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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation To Be Honored at 2011 National Keep America Beautiful Conference**

*Local Representatives Earn Recognition for Community Beautification/Greening Efforts*

**Youngstown, OH – (October 24 2011) – The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation** will be honored at the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Keep America Beautiful National Conference, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the KAB National Awards in the community beautification/community greening category. The organization was honored for its *Lots of Green* program.

Youngstown Litter Control and Recycling, a Division of the City of Youngstown and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, nominated the local non-profit organization because of its outstanding contribution to the improvement of quality of life for Youngstown residents.

“The YNDC (Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation) has been a driving force in the improvement and revitalization of several communities in Youngstown. Their *Lots of Green* vacant land reuse program has repurposed over 115 vacant parcels, creating community gardens, a community orchard, a rain garden, and transfer of lot ownership to adjacent residents. These improvements resulted in a safer and healthier neighborhood environment and a stronger community fabric, as residents came together to improve their neighborhood. We are proud to be a partner in this vital neighborhood revitalization effort. A long-term goal would be for community support to duplicate programs like this in all areas of Youngstown” said Jennifer Jones, Youngstown Litter Control and Recycling Program Coordinator.

“We are excited about the continued growth, expansion, commitment, determination, and progress that YNDC brings to the City of Youngstown. Congratulations YNDC!” said, Sean McKinney, Youngstown’s Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds.

The Keep America Beautiful National Conference, which takes place this year in New Orleans, LA, brings together award-winning organizations and affiliates from across the country to share best practices and celebrate the successes of the last 12 months. The Keep America Beautiful National Awards are open to any business, civic group, school or government agency and their employees for their efforts to deliver a more beautiful, cleaner and improved environment through new technologies, improved waste handling and public space stewardship for program activities during the 12-month period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. The honored organizations encourage individuals to make simple daily choices and to engage in volunteer activities that improve their communities and their local environment.

**About Youngstown Litter Control and Recycling**

Youngstown Litter Control and Recycling, a division of the Department of Public Works, was established through cooperation between the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District and the City of Youngstown. Our mission is to educate and encourage our community to improve their environments through waste reduction, recycling, beautification efforts, and reducing and eliminating blight and litter.

Our numerous programs and services include annual special recycling drives for appliances, electronics, tires, leaves, etc and litter cleanups, including two Citywide Cleanups each year. Visit our website at [www.cityofyoungstownoh.com](http://www.cityofyoungstownoh.com) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/youngstownlitter.recycling](http://www.facebook.com/youngstownlitter.recycling)

**About the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation**

The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) is a citywide multifaceted neighborhood development organization that works to catalyze strategic reinvestment in neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. The organization was launched in 2008 as part of an effort to implement Youngstown 2010, a city plan calling for a smaller, greener, and more resilient city.

**About Keep America Beautiful, Inc.**

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., established in 1953, is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. **This** national nonprofit forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. For additional information, visit [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org).

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