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## IT AIN'T EASY GOING GREEN New Store in Oak Park Can Help

Oak Park, IL—February 11, 2008—By now, most of us are familiar with the concept of “going green,” after all, it is one of the hottest topics of the day, but do we really know how to take steps in our own homes to become more environmentally friendly? The thought of “going green,” can seem overwhelming. That is where Green Home Experts, the new green home store in Oak Park, comes in.

Owner Maria Onesto Moran can show customers how to make simple changes in their homes like replacing conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets and shower heads; and replacing harsh chemical cleaners with kid and pet friendly, non-toxic cleaners. “You don’t have to change every aspect of your life, you can start small. If we all made little changes, it would have a big impact,” says Onesto Moran. “If each household in the U.S. were to use one gallon of non-petroleum based laundry detergent, like our Mrs. Meyer’s Clean Day Laundry Soap, we would save 200,000 barrels of oil every year, enough to heat and cool 11,400 homes.”

Want to make even bigger changes? A variety of products is available at the store, including no-VOC paint, flooring, countertops, furniture, cabinets, and insulation. “I’ve worked to ensure that it’s easy and affordable for customers to make healthy lifestyle

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changes with our products,” says Onesto Moran. Even people who have been living green for a while will be surprised by all of the new, innovative products in the store. New parents will enjoy the variety of baby products, including non-toxic baby furniture.

Plans are in the works for educational and community events to be held at the store, such as seminars on organic gardening and building a green baby nursery. A resources section in the store provides customers with information on architects, designers and contractors who have used Green Home Experts’ products.

Green Home Experts is a labor of love for owner Maria Onesto Moran. Formerly a non-profit fundraiser, she first became interested in green design when she worked for Lakefront Supportive Housing. Lakefront is known for its innovative, green, affordable housing and collaboration with architect Helmut Jaan. Activism, however, has always been important to Onesto Moran. She started a non-profit herself when she was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Seeing the need for her peers to find volunteer opportunities, Maria founded Students Helping Others Everywhere (SHOE). Recognizing another need in helping people have access to green home products in the Western Suburbs, Maria is opening up Green Home Experts. She hopes to appeal to all people who want to make their home safer for their families and minimize their impact on the environment. The store’s grand opening weekend will be February 23-24.

The store will be open from 10:00am-4:00pm. Regular store hours are: Tuesday-Friday

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10:00am-7:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm and Sunday 10:00-2:00pm. For more information, please call (708) 937-5403 or email [GoGreen@GHExperts.com](mailto:GoGreen@GHExperts.com).

For more information about Green Home Experts, pictures, or an interview, please contact Maria Onesto Moran, President, at (708) 937-5403 or [Maria@GHExperts.com](mailto:Maria@GHExperts.com).

**Press are invited to a VIP grand opening reception on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Please call or email for details.**

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