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Contact:
Stephanie Skordas
Trone Public Relations
TELE 336.812.2042
E-MAIL sskordas@trone.com

Creating a Radical Renewal in Downtown Greensboro

(Greensboro, N.C., September 7, 2005) Greensboro's downtown community has banded together to revamp and revitalize a long-time Elm Street landmark. The building owned by Dave and Judi Hill at 233 South Elm Street, which houses Thousands O Prints, a local art and frame shop, will undergo a Radical Renewal **October 28-30, 2005**.

We're doing a makeover, but instead of clothing, a haircut and cosmetics, we're talking bricks, lumber and paint, said Benjamin Briggs, executive director of Preservation Greensboro who's also chairing the Radical Renewal committee. Instead of a whole new look, we want to recreate a piece of downtown history.

The Action Greensboro committee overseeing the project has been working towards this goal since June 2004. They plan to give the building's front facade a complete makeover that will restore the original arched entrance not seen on the building since 1917. The Radical Renewal will use donated building supplies, sponsorships and volunteer elbow grease to give the shop's facade a total transformation in one October weekend.

We're excited to see history come alive again in our corner of Greensboro, says Dave Hill, the building's owner. We've been a part of downtown since 1974, when we opened our doors on the corner of South Elm and Washington Streets. We're big believers in downtown revitalization and delighted to be involved with Radical Renewal.

The Radical Renewal project has already touched a lot of lives. About 60 people met late this winter as part of a design charette, a creative process akin to visual brainstorming used by design professionals to develop solutions within a limited time frame. Seven teams made up of design professionals, architects, artists, engineers, construction experts and community members spent a day brainstorming and presented ideas for the Radical Renewal of the print shop.

It's not too late to be a part of the project: Radical Renewal will be looking for sponsors to donate funds or building materials, and experienced volunteers from the construction industry to help with the building blitz this October. If you're interested, contact Dabney Sanders at Action Greensboro, 336.379.0821 or dsanders@actiongreensboro.org.

Note to Media: Architectural renderings of the planned facade are available from Action Greensboro.

About Action Greensboro:

Radical Renewal

Action Greensboro is dedicated to creating an economically vibrant community where individuals can find the foundations to build their lives; fostering an environment that attracts business and industry and which stimulates business formation and development; and developing a dynamic urban center.

Action Greensboro exists to bring more and better paying jobs to Greensboro. It was formed in November 2001 by six foundations: Joseph M. Bryan Foundation, CEMALA Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation, TOLEO Foundation and Weaver Foundation.