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BUFFETT, COUSINS AND ROBERTSON ADVOCATE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION ***Three Visionaries Welcome Leaders from Across Nation to Meeting in New Orleans***

NEW ORLEANS (March 2, 2010) – Business leaders and philanthropists Thomas G. Cousins, Warren Buffett and Alex Robertson today headlined the inaugural national meeting of Purpose Built Communities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming struggling neighborhoods into vibrant and sustainable communities.

The meeting included civic and business leaders from across the nation, including PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem, U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and Shirley Franklin, Atlanta Mayor from 2002 through 2010, as well as community organizers from 10 cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

Cousins and Buffett, as well as Robertson's father, Julian, founded Purpose Built Communities in 2009, with a goal of catalyzing and accelerating holistic community redevelopment across America. Purpose Built Communities is now working with leaders of revitalization programs in seven cities (known as Network Members), while actively exploring partnerships with additional groups.

During the meeting in New Orleans (hosted by the Bayou District Foundation, a Purpose Built Communities Network Member) attendees toured the dramatic revitalization underway in the Bayou District and explored best practices in mixed-income housing and cradle-to-college education.

In 1995, Cousins founded Atlanta's East Lake Foundation, now nationally recognized as a leader in community revitalization. The dramatic results achieved in East Lake prompted Cousins to establish Purpose Built Communities in order to share successful strategies with other community organizers. He noted, "We can help neighborhoods across the country build brighter futures for thousands of children and adults, while reducing the social and economic costs associated with poverty and crime."

Purpose Built Communities works with community groups across the country to revitalize troubled neighborhoods. Current members of the Purpose Built Communities Network include:

- Georgia East Lake Foundation (Atlanta), South Rome Redevelopment Corp. (Rome)
- Indiana Strategic Capital Partners (Indianapolis)
- Louisiana Bayou District Foundation (New Orleans)
- Mississippi Jackson State University (Jackson)
- North Carolina Cornerstone Children's Initiative (Charlotte)
- Tennessee Soulsville Foundation (Memphis)

"Our members represent communities that are at the forefront of the battle against intergenerational poverty," said Purpose Built Communities President Charles B. Knapp.

About Purpose Built Communities

Established in 2009, Purpose Built Communities is a nonprofit organization that catalyzes and accelerates holistic community revitalization initiatives around the country. Based on lessons learned from the revitalization of Atlanta's East Lake neighborhood and other successful efforts, Purpose Built Communities helps its Network Member organizations develop the strategies and partnerships they need to effectively address issues that trap a neighborhood and its people in intergenerational poverty. More information is available online at purposebuiltcommunities.org.