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Springfield's own ReStore Deconstruction to be featured on This Old House Premiere episode

Springfield, MA – The ReStore, a local non-profit organization, will be featured on the season premiere of *This Old House*, which will air locally on WGBY Channel 57 at 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 2.

The ReStore dismantled the 1,900-sq.-ft. home in Weston, Mass., which is the project that will be featured this fall on the popular PBS home improvement series. The ReStore salvaged more than 85 percent of the home's materials, many of which are being used to help build two Habitat for Humanity homes in Springfield.

Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, ReStore representatives and a collection of local leaders have been on hand several times in previous months to welcome members of the *This Old House* cast and crew when they filmed in Springfield. “We are proud to have the ReStore here in Springfield being featured on such a well-respected national television program,” said Sarno. “The ReStore is doing innovative work in disassembling homes to recover useful materials and selling them at low cost to help people improve their homes, lives and communities. This is good news for Springfield and the region, and this national attention is another example of how Springfield is embracing the new Green Economy,” he said.

The town of Weston, about 20 miles west of Boston, is the site of the *This Old House* project where the show is building a new timberframe home for the Favat family. Despite being located on a main thoroughfare, the family loves their property, with its active wildlife and bubbling brook. In recent years, however, Pete, Amy, and their children, 15-year-old Cian and 12-year-old Juliette, have found themselves outgrowing their modest 1970's-era home.

After a year of trying to donate the existing house to charity, there were no takers, so the next best solution for them was to deconstruct their old house to make way for the new timberframe home. The deconstruction work began on April 17 and continued through May 6. The ReStore's professional Deconstruction crew carefully dismantled the house using hand tools and small equipment. “I have seen firsthand what it takes to deconstruct a house, and it's really amazing what a large amount of materials the ReStore was able to recover from the Favat's home,” said Kevin O'Connor, host of *This Old House*. “I think many of our viewers will be excited to learn about such an interesting process.”

“We're honored and excited to be featured on such a well-known and highly regarded show as *This Old House*,” said John Majercak, ReStore Director. “This is nice

recognition for our efforts to strengthen our community, economy and environment,” Majercak continued. “I think it’s good for Springfield, too, to get some national recognition as the home for our innovative green work as part of the City’s overall green efforts that are underway,” he said.

The recovered materials not used in the Habitat for Humanity homes will be sold at low cost at the ReStore’s retail location at 250 Albany Street. “These materials, and the homes we are building will change the lives of a local family in need,” said Jennifer Schimmel, executive director, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity. “For us, this project is really special. Not only will the Habitat house be filled with life and love, it will be also be filled with living history.”

The premiere episode of *This Old House* will feature ReStore’s deconstruction work on the Weston project. Additional episodes this season will include footage shot at the ReStore this May, as well as segments filmed last month at the Habitat for Humanity homes in Springfield. “WGBY public television for Springfield and western New England is proud to partner with the ReStore to help promote the upcoming series and future events with *This Old House* ,” said WGBY General Manager Russell J. Peotter.

“As part of our mission to connect the people of our region with ideas, events and each other we are pleased to have this opportunity to inform viewers about building green and the ReStore’s important work in this area,” he added.

According to Majercak, green building is becoming an increasingly popular trend, and homeowners are looking for ways to make their building and remodeling projects environmentally friendly. “When homeowners choose deconstruction over demolition, they not only save thousands of tons of materials from the landfill, they also receive a tax benefit and are helping their community by providing affordable building materials to others,” said Majercak.

“I think the explosion of interest in green practices has really helped our Deconstruction Services take off,” said Majercak. “For a whole-house deconstruction project, we cost a little bit more than traditional demolition, but it ends up just being a difference of a small fraction of the overall project cost. So many homeowners seek us out to get the extra benefits that deconstruction provides. The extra cost is in the labor. That means we are creating living wage jobs in the new green economy,” he said.

According to Majercak, deconstruction is a sensible solution for smaller remodeling projects as well. “Soft strips” take the place of pre-renovation demolition and recover unwanted materials such as old cabinet sets and plumbing fixtures, leaving a clean site to begin renovations. “These pre-remodeling jobs are done with hand labor anyway, so we are very cost-competitive and still provide all the environmental, community and tax benefits,” said Majercak.

ReStore Deconstruction has grown significantly in the past year, becoming a full-time operation. In 2007, the ReStore worked locally as well as regionally in Massachusetts

from the North and South Shores of Boston to the Berkshires, doing a total of 127 pre-demo strip outs, four garage deconstructions and four whole-house deconstructions. ReStore Deconstruction is a Registered Home Improvement Contractor and all jobs are managed by their Licensed Construction Site Supervisor.

The ReStore Home Improvement Center is an innovative non-profit enterprise with a three-fold mission:

- Reuse valuable building materials
- Make home improvement more affordable
- Create local jobs and provide job training

The ReStore sells used and surplus building materials at low cost to help hardworking do-it-yourselfers rebuild their homes, lives and communities. The materials are donated by individuals, contractors, and manufacturers who wish to see quality goods used to help their neighbors. Over 20,000 residents have been able to improve their homes and the quality of their lives and communities in ways that would have been out of their reach without the ReStore's low-cost materials. These customers have saved a total of more than \$1 million over the past five years, keeping hundreds of tons of materials out of the landfill.

The ReStore employs eight people, and has worked with dozens of Americorps*VISTAs, interns, and volunteers who have gained valuable job experience while advancing its mission.

The ReStore is an enterprise of the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), a non-profit community environmental organization with offices in Northampton and Pittsfield. For more information about the ReStore, residents are encouraged to stop by the store at 250 Albany Street, visit www.restoreonline.org, or call 413-788-6900.

WGBY (www.wgby.org), a community supported public broadcasting organization, connects the people of western New England to events, ideas and each other through national PBS programming and locally produced series and specials. With an additional four digital television channels, video on demand, podcasting and streaming video, WGBY is one of the region's most accessible community institutions, providing lifelong learning opportunities for all.