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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENING OF PUBLIC HOUSING

TULSA, OK –

The Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa is pleased with their collaboration with three students from Holland Hall. Mike Barton, Caroline Adelson and Connor Cass formed their own environmental group, "GreenTree of Tulsa." GreenTree of Tulsa planted trees around eight properties of the Tulsa Housing Authority, and other locations in the city.

The Tulsa Housing Authority was especially pleased with the hard work and initiative of the Holland Hall students. LaDeanna Anderson, COO of THA said, "Without the help of these fine young people, we could never have provided this volume of improvements for our residents."

The students have been making a concerted effort to educate the public on how to better our environment. They approached Holland Hall teacher, Becca Parker, in the summer with their idea. As part of the Polar Bears International Campaign, students were challenged to develop ideas on how to lessen CO₂ emissions.

When the students asked the Tulsa Housing Authority about planting trees on their properties, their plans blossomed into a full-scale beautification effort. With the advice of a horticulturist, GreenTree of Tulsa planted pine trees, Chinese pistachio trees, red birch and oak trees as well as crape myrtles. Tulsa Housing Authority graciously accepted over 200 trees at Comanche Park, Apache Manor, Mohawk Manor, Sandy Park, Parkview Terrace, South Haven Manor, East Central Village and Inhofe Plaza. In addition, the students provided smaller trees for Tulsa Housing Authority to plant in the spring.

GreenTree of Tulsa's plan is to reduce the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by planting trees in our city. "An average tree absorbs 330 lbs. of CO₂ each year, and we have planted over 1,000 trees this fall already," said Connor Cass. A grant from the Apache Foundation provided the larger trees, and the Oklahoma Forestry Service generously donated the smaller trees.

Connor Cass has taken the project to heart, and said this group will continue to plant trees throughout Tulsa.

The students shared their experience of tree planting at the THA properties with their younger classmates at Holland Hall. At the end of the presentation, each student received two sapling pine trees – one to plant and one to share with a friend, along with environmental handouts.

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