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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHRISTY WEBBER LANDSCAPES PARTICIPATES IN
THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY'S *SMART HOME: GREEN + WIRED***

CHICAGO, July 14, 2008 – The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago has created a functioning, three-story modular and sustainable “green” home in its own backyard to demonstrate several options that help people make eco-friendly living a part of their lives. *Smart Home: Green + Wired, Powered by ComEd and Warmed by Peoples Gas* uses this contemporary home setting to showcase to guests innovations in reusable resources, smart energy and healthy-living environments. The *Smart Home* exhibit runs until Jan. 4, 2009.

Designed by Michelle Kaufmann Designs, the *Smart Home* is a first for a museum. Never before has a museum built a fully functioning home of this kind as an exhibit on its grounds. In addition, the 2,500-square-foot *Smart Home* has been named “Chicago’s Greenest Home” by the City of Chicago’s Green Homes Program.

A number of companies donated time, energy and resources to bring the *Smart Home’s* surrounding landscape design to life. Jacobs/Ryan Associates Landscape Architects completed master site planning and Christy Webber Landscapes managed landscape-related construction and installation for the site, in addition to carrying out site grading, green roof installation, shrub and perennial installation and hydroseeding. Clauss Brothers, Inc. installed the paved road and Gro Horticultural installed bur oaks and evergreens. Numerous green industry suppliers donated soft and hardscape materials to the effort.

Native plants and sustainable practices, including a perviously paved drive and green roof, feature in the landscape. Prairie and oak savanna plantings recall the region’s past, while working gardens demonstrate food production, indoor climate control and stormwater capture and reuse. Native plants include butterfly milkweed, echinacea, prairie dropseed and little blue stem. The site also includes a vegetable garden, planted and maintained by a team from the University of Illinois Extension and a rain garden, installed by Openlands.

Christy Webber Landscapes was proud to be a part of this exciting project. Owner, Christy Webber, explained, “As the landscape contractor for the Museum of Science and Industry, we wanted to be supportive of this exhibit. In addition, our company consistently strives to incorporate green materials, methods and practices into the work we do, so this project was a natural fit for us.”

About Christy Webber Landscapes

In 1988, Christy Webber bought an old pickup truck and some lawn mowing equipment and began cutting grass around Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood. In the 20 years since, she has grown Christy Webber Landscapes into one of the largest landscape contractor firms in Chicago, with more than 250 employees and an impressive fleet of trucks and equipment.

Today, the company maintains some of Chicago's most prestigious landmarks, such as Navy Pier, the Museum of Science and Industry and O'Hare and Midway airports. Recent landscape construction projects include Kennedy King College, Millennium Park and the McCormick Place West addition. In addition, the company continues to serve hundreds of residential clients, some of which have been with Christy since her small beginnings. In addition, Christy Webber Landscapes has expanded to offer comprehensive commercial snow removal services.

In addition to her work in the landscaping industry, Webber recently formed a development company called Chicago GreenWorks. The company's first project was Rancho Verde, an eco-industrial park on Chicago's west side. Rancho Verde has won numerous awards for its environmentally sensitive approach to redeveloping a brownfield site in a disadvantaged community. Some of the site's innovative features are a unique stormwater management system (including a green roof, bioswales and a rain garden) and the first Chicago public street with porous paving and induction street lighting. Also located on the site and designed in this same spirit is Christy Webber Landscapes' headquarters building. In 2007, the building was awarded a LEED Platinum rating, the US Green Building Council's highest classification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Smart Home: Green + Wired, Powered by ComEd and Warmed by Peoples Gas, is also sponsored by American Honda Motor Co., Inc.; Dominick's; and the Motorola Foundation as part of the Museum's 75th Anniversary. For more information or to purchase exhibit tour tickets, visit www.msichicago.org.