



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAVENWORTH MAIN STREET PROGRAM, INC. RECEIVES 2010 NATIONAL TRUST MAIN STREET ACCREDITATION

Leavenworth, Kansas – Leavenworth Main Street Program, Inc. has been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center. Each year, the National Trust and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street® programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and demonstrate their ability in using the Main Street Four-Point Approach® methodology for strengthening their local economy and protecting their historic buildings.

“We congratulate this year’s nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards,” says Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. “Accredited Main Street programs are meeting the challenges of the recession head on and are successfully using a focused, comprehensive revitalization strategy to keep their communities vibrant and sustainable.”

The organization’s performance is annually evaluated by Kansas Main Street, which works in partnership with the National Trust Main Street Center to identify the local programs that meet 10 performance standards. These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street program’s application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to commercial district revitalization. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings. For more information on the national program accreditation program, visit www.mainstreet.org/nationalprograms.

“The Leavenworth Main Street Program offers many services, hosts events and activities downtown, offers education & networking opportunities, markets the historic downtown & businesses within the metropolitan region, works closely with city, county, state, Ft. Leavenworth and the community, offers funding opportunities and one on one support to local businesses & entrepreneurs”, states

Wendy Scheidt, Executive Director of the program. “Communication continues to be a major focus for our organization, working with the Chamber, CVB, LCDC, FT LV FMWR & Garrison Command, KU Small Business Development Center, Network Kansas, Kansas Main Street & the Kansas Department of Commerce. In addition, we work with our local service organizations, nonprofits, museums, colleges and the business community to keep abreast of their initiatives. Downtown reinvestment dollars are nearing \$22 Million, since receiving a reinvestment award from the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2009 for \$20 Million. As a volunteer driven organization, LMS logs over 15,000 volunteer hours annually which equates to more than \$250,000 at the state rate, all supporting revitalization & vibrancy downtown. Leavenworth Main Street is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year with continued growth in membership, downtown business growth & investment and funding support through the State of Kansas. The Main Street Four-Point Approach is working in Leavenworth and downtowns across the country. “I encourage people to visit and patronize independent businesses whenever possible. Their product offerings, knowledge & services are exceptional & competitive and your spending dollars re-circulate within the community,” states Scheidt. “Many offer classes, youth camps & special programs that add value to your life.”

The Leavenworth Main Street Program, Inc., (www.leavenworthmainstreet.com) through a program of community awareness and involvement works to revitalize and preserve the downtown through education and historic preservation to keep it a viable and attractive area for the benefit of the entire community. As a 501©3 not for profit corporation, funding is raised through financial, business and associate memberships, fundraising activities & sponsorship, with a broad volunteer base that supports all activities.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.PreservationNation.org) is a nonprofit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., eight regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America’s stories.

Established in 1980, the National Trust Main Street Center ® helps communities of all sizes revitalize their older and historic commercial districts. Working in more than 2,200 downtowns and urban neighborhoods over the last 30 years, the Main Street program has leveraged more than \$48.9 billion in new public and private investment. Participating communities have created 417,919 net new jobs and 94,176 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 214,263 buildings, leveraging an average of \$27 in new investment for every dollar spent on their Main Street district revitalization efforts.