



March 11, 2009

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President/CEO, Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation

### **Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation to Host REACH Mississippi Employer Seminars**

**GULFPORT, Mississippi** — To continue its mission of providing affordable workforce housing solutions for South Mississippi, Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation is hosting informational seminars for business and industry leaders in George, Pearl River and Stone counties this month.

The free-of-charge seminars will provide employers in these three counties, all of which were recently introduced into the nonprofit organization's scope of services, with information on how REACH Mississippi can benefit businesses, residents and the community.

REACH (Regional Employer Assisted Collaboration for Housing) Mississippi, which launched in August 2008, is an employer-assisted housing program designed to address challenges to the area's rebuilding process by providing gap financing directly to individuals or families that make up the workforce of South Mississippi.

The program provides a three-to-one match to employer contributions for qualified workers with a total household income less than 120 percent of the area median income (approximately \$60,000 annually for a family of four living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast). REACH Mississippi offers qualified employees up to \$40,000 in down payment assistance on the purchase of a home.

“We are constantly striving to expand our services and grow our programs so that we can create attractive, safe and cost-effective home ownership opportunities for South Mississippi's workforce. Now that we are serving George, Pearl River and Stone counties, we invite business owners and leaders within these counties to participate in our seminars to learn how the REACH Mississippi program can help retain our valued workforce sector while providing the gift of homeownership to employees,” said Kimberly LaRosa, president and CEO of the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation.

Sessions will be held in Pearl River County on March 23 at the Poplarville Public Library and on March 30 at the Margaret Crosby Reed Memorial Library in Picayune. In George County, a seminar will be held on March 25 in the multipurpose room at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-George County Center in Lucedale, and in Stone County, on March 26 in the multipurpose room at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston Campus. All meetings will begin at 11:30 a.m.

To RSVP or for more information on the REACH Mississippi seminars, please e-mail [ssapet@msgcrc.com](mailto:ssapet@msgcrc.com) or call 228.896.3386.

#### About the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation

The Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, founded in 2006 by several South Mississippi business leaders in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, is a nonprofit organization focused on creating affordable housing solutions to Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George and Stone counties. For more information about the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, please go to [www.msgcrc.com](http://www.msgcrc.com) or call (228) 896-3386.