For Immediate Release
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Dramatic change in several North Nashville areas is evident in photos taken before and after Tennessee's Great American Cleanup™ event two weeks ago.

*Vacant Pizza Building, Dr. DB Todd & Jefferson Street*

*Metro Action Commission*

Nearly 300 volunteers from East, West and Middle Tennessee participated in the May 14th event, hosted by Metro Beautification & Environment and Keep Tennessee Beautiful.

Nearly a dozen project zones were selected for volunteers to work on throughout the day, and included local schools and playgrounds, the North Branch Carnegie Library, neighborhood centers and community gardens. Workers painted over graffiti, upgraded a playground and planted trees and new landscaping.

The exterior of the Metro Action Commission facility at 1634 5th Avenue North (at right) was completely transformed with new plantings and having the building pressure-washed. "We have received numerous exciting comments from our employees and neighborhood residents," said MAC Director Cynthia Croom. "It's a different environment since the notable change. Some of our employees have formed a committee that volunteers their personal time toward the upkeep of our new look."

“We intended for each community project to be a transformative experience, and by all accounts, that goal was met,” said Metro Beautification Director Veronica Frazier. “At the end of the day, volunteers went home feeling a strong sense of accomplishment, and the residents felt a renewed sense of pride in their neighborhoods. We believe our Great American Cleanup was a successful first step in revitalizing areas that will hopefully continue to see significant change and improved quality of life.”

Nashville was one of three cities selected by Keep America Beautiful to host a national spotlight event the Great American Cleanup™ effort. Waveland, Miss., and New York previously hosted 2009 events. Keep America Beautiful sponsors the Great American Cleanup™ from March 1st through May 31st to mobilize millions of volunteers for community improvement projects in all 50 states.

*Historic Cheatham Place, Playground Upgrade and Landscaping*

*Downtown Greenway Extension at Morgan Park*