TAKE CHARGE AMERICA HONORED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

*Cintas Document Management recognizes agency for successful recycling program, client security.*

PHOENIX – (July 20, 2011) – Take Charge America, Inc., a non-profit credit counseling and debt management agency based in Phoenix, received a Cintas Environmental Award for its in-house recycling program.

Every year, Cintas Document Management acknowledges a select group of customers nationwide for partnering in environmental preservation while still providing the highest level of document security.

Between 2007 and 2010, Take Charge America is credited with saving 1,331,100 trees, 156,600 barrels oil and 234,900-cubic-yards of landfill space. Since the onset of this program, the agency has reduced the amount of waste sent to landfills by 18 percent while increasing the amount of materials recycled by 75 percent.

Formalized recycling started as a trial program in the IT department, yet it quickly expanded to a company-wide effort. In addition to recycling typical consumer recyclables, such as paper and plastic, Take Charge America has instituted procedures to recycle furniture, de-commissioned CPU’s, monitors and other electronic equipment. Plus, Take Charge America hosts “Shred Days” where employees are invited to bring in their old documents from home for onsite shredding.

Madeline Reints, Take Charge America’s recycling program champion, says the program’s success has been dependent upon employee commitment. “It takes every department, every person to achieve this in one unified, successful effort.”

According to Reints, company funds saved as a result of the program will be reinvested into future environmental efforts, potentially solar-powered LED lighting in the parking lot.

About Take Charge America, Inc.

Take Charge America, Inc., a non-profit financial education, credit counseling and debt management agency, is dedicated to helping consumers nationwide improve their financial futures. It partners with creditors, credit unions, employers, government groups and educational institutions to reach different segments of the population experiencing a variety of financial challenges. Since its founding in 1987, the company has grown from three to nearly 400 employees. It has helped more than 1.5 million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts. For more information on Take Charge America, visit [www.takechargeamerica.org](http://www.takechargeamerica.org) or call (888) 822-9193.

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