



EVENT PRODUCTIONS ●

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## **GIVE YOUR WEDDING GUESTS A "GREATER CAUSE" FOR CELEBRATION**

### **Incorporating sustainable and philanthropic aspects to any wedding style**

Chicago, September 15, 2009 – Embracing today's eco-friendly and sustainable trends, many brides/grooms are trying to incorporate positive environmental, social and economic aspects into their wedding day.

Lori Stephenson, owner and senior event consultant at LOLA Event Productions, recently worked with a number of Chicago-area couples seeking to incorporate both eco-friendly and charitable components into their wedding plans. "While we continue to see a trend towards being more eco-conscious, we encourage bridal couples to choose options that reflect their own personality and interests," states Stephenson. "Guests are increasingly appreciative of these efforts, especially those that give back to the community," she adds.

For example, bridal couples can work with a caterer to create a menu from local sustainable resources including hormone-free dairy and meat products, and pesticide-free produce grown at local farms. A recent LOLA couple took this one step further and donated excess food from their wedding festivities to a local shelter. In addition, the same couple asked wedding guests to make a donation to a local area fund that supports children's education initiatives in lieu of a wedding gift.

"We strive to assist our clients to plan a wedding reflective of their individual style and within their budget, and certainly this can easily include philanthropic and eco-friendly aspects," says Stephenson.

Stephenson offers other tips for incorporating sustainable and philanthropic ideas into wedding planning, including:

- Create centerpieces from living plants and then donate them to a local eldercare facility or school for re-planting on their grounds

-more-

## **ADD ONE: GIVE YOUR WEDDING GUESTS A “GREATER CAUSE” FOR CELEBRATION**

- Print invitations with soy ink on paper that guests can plant and grow into sweet basil
- Purchase carbon emission credits on behalf of wedding guests as favors
- Use paper/disposable products made of post-consumer recycled goods or made of biodegradable cornstarch
- Contract with a wedding caterer that will recycle all cans, plastics and glass

### **About LOLA Event Productions**

*LOLA Event Productions, a Chicago-based event and wedding design firm, specializes in creating meaningful and memorable events that reflect the individual personality and style of clients. LOLA's senior-level consultants work with Chicago's top event vendors, and offer in depth experience with design, décor, planning, logistics and budgets. For more information, visit [www.LOLAeventproductions.com](http://www.LOLAeventproductions.com).*

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