

## **MEDIA RELEASE FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 EVENT**

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### ***In Harmony with Hope Awards Honors Social Entrepreneurs for Inspirational Success Amidst Tough Times***

**Elfenworks Foundation presents \$25,000 each to founders of innovative programs  
serving marginalized communities at event hosted by Danny Glover**

(Burlingame, CA) The Elfenworks Foundation continued its tradition of spotlighting innovative changemakers at Burlingame's Kohl Mansion on Tuesday, September 20. As the lagging economy and global turmoil has led many Americans to grow frustrated and desperate, the *In Harmony with Hope Awards* honors the accomplishments of leaders who are providing inspiration and hope in the face of difficult times.

"Each of these winners has been incredibly successful at helping vulnerable individuals overcome daunting barriers and lead happier lives," said Dr. Lauren Speeth, Elfenworks founding CEO. "Their unwavering dedication to solving society's most pressing problems in their own backyards represents the inspirational power of hope in action that Elfenworks is committed to supporting."

Elfenworks and Wells Fargo are pleased to announce the inauguration of a new partnership with the 2011 *In Harmony with Hope Awards* program. Wells Fargo has joined on as a sponsor with a \$10,000 contribution. Both Elfenworks and Wells Fargo look forward to growing their partnership in coming years.

Beyond the financial reward, the *In Harmony with Hope Awards* gathering will offer moral support and enhance the network of the winners so they can continue to bring compassionate vision into action. Past winners will be on hand to share valuable ideas and develop new friendships and partnerships.

"This is the fifth year that Elfenworks is recognizing social entrepreneurs creating lasting, positive change at the national level and I'm proud to be part of this growing tradition," said actor and humanitarian Danny Glover. "The *In Harmony with Hope Awards* alumni include real visionaries like Rosalynn Carter, Paul Farmer and Will Allen and this year's winners carry on that legacy of tackling problems facing America's disenfranchised communities."

***The 2011 In Harmony with Hope Award winners are:***

**Brenda Eheart, [Generations of Hope Development Corporation](#), Champaign, IL**  
In 1994, Brenda Eheart spearheaded the transformation of a decommissioned military base into a community where retired people could live rent-free in exchange for raising

foster youth in a supportive environment. Since Brenda Eheart launched the Hope Meadows, the model has achieved incredible results and expanded across the country, most recently into Portland. Now, Brenda is escalating the concept to develop communities based around not only caring for foster youth, but also “frail elderly,” military veterans and disabled adults.

**Jim McCorkell, [Admission Possible](#), St. Paul, MN**

Jim McCorkell grew up poor and struggled to afford college – but as soon as he finished his education, he started Admission Possible to help other low-income youth follow his path to higher education. Now kids he helped when they were struggling though high school are putting high-earning careers on hold and returning to their old neighborhoods to tutor the next generation. Although many of the program’s students are from families with no history of college education, 98 percent of Admission Possible’s students are admitted to college and 80 percent earn their four-year degrees.

**Bill Milliken, [Communities In Schools](#), Washington, DC**

Bill Milliken puts a new twist on the old expression “It takes a village to raise a child” by building networks of schools, families and community leaders to support at-risk youth. Communities in Schools, the program he started in Harlem nearly four decades ago and has grown to serve more than 1.3 million kids in 3,000 schools, works by placing site coordinators who act as “routers” to ensure that each student is getting appropriate support and that no student falls through the cracks.

For more information on the 2011 In Harmony with Hope Award winners, visit <http://wp.elfenworksfoundation.org/ihh2011/>

*About Elfenworks Foundation: Elfenworks is leading the way to a better America, one good thought at a time. Working on behalf of our country’s marginalized citizens, Elfenworks identifies issues that aren’t being effectively addressed, creates change in new and different ways by bringing our unique skill-set to bear, and amplifies our partners’ successes through storytelling. <http://wp.elfenworksfoundation.org/>*

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