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BURLINGAME-BASED ELFENWORKS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES TO LOCAL CAUSES AND EVENTS AS PART OF LARGER DOMESTIC POVERTY INITIATIVES

NEW YORK (July 13, 2007) – Taking their national agenda to a local level, The Elfenworks Foundation, a Burlingame-based organization focused on effecting real change in regards to the pressing issue of domestic poverty, is ‘giving back’ and contributing to numerous causes in the San Francisco / Peninsula area, including poverty education, law enforcement, school safety, and providing matching funds for backpacks filled with school supplies for “Backpackpalooza,” a program sponsored by the Burlingame United Methodist Church. At “Backpackpalooza,” hundreds of backpacks will be given away to school-age children living below the poverty rate, with the event set to take place August 11 from 10am to 2pm at Central Park on 5th Street in San Mateo.

Also on The Elfenworks Foundation agenda, the celebration of inequality.com and the official opening of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University, 7pm September 6th at Stanford’s Memorial Church, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Elfenworks Foundation’s new office space at 10am the following morning. The Stanford event will feature a keynote address by Director David Grusky, remarks by Dean Richard Saller, and original compositions written in celebration of the center. The first, a new major composition by Giancarlo Aquilanti entitled *La Povertà*, will be performed under the baton of maestro Mitchell Sardou Klein of the Peninsula Symphony, and visually accompanied by the film, “Faces of Poverty.” This composition features a fugue in ten voices, and sets to music both Deuteronomy 15:11 and a quote from Mother Teresa. The second composition, *In Harmony with Hope*, by Tammy Lynne Hall, will feature Ms. Hall conducting and at the piano, with Rhonda Benin, Valerie Joi Fiddmont, and La Tonya Reed vocals, Michaëlle Goerlitz, percussion, and Sani Sasmita, Bass.

In addition to its support of Stanford, The Elfenworks Foundation recently stepped in when a poverty law course was to be discontinued at Golden Gate University, and is also facilitating a cell-phone safety service pilot program at the De Marillac Academy, as well as helping to fund a new police K9 (canine) for the Burlingame Police Department, an invaluable tool in the prevention of crime and criminal activity in the city. The Burlingame Police Department, currently enlisting one K9, hopes to grow the unit back to its former size, when they were able to have a K9 available on all shifts in Burlingame. Because of budget constraints, the size of the unit has been reduced, and their goal is to bring back these dogs proven helpful with tracking suspects and lost individuals, speeding up searches of large areas or buildings, and detecting narcotics and explosives in areas that humans often overlook.

“These causes are absolutely in harmony with our domestic poverty agenda and we’re thrilled to be involved,” says Lauren Speeth, CEO of The Elfenworks Foundation. “We’ve been working night and day on Stanford’s inequality.com, which commanded our attention as our top priority for over a year and we’re ready to celebrate. Access and affordability in higher education are of specific concern to us, so supporting Golden Gate U’s goal of ‘transforming lives, careers and opportunities’ while saving a Katrina / Poverty law class that would otherwise lose funding was an easy decision. And with De Marillac, in the Tenderloin, where poverty and crime go hand in hand, we hope to help *protect* kids and the heroes who literally risk their lives to educate them. As for the backpack and canine initiatives, it’s our privilege to help our neighbors and peacekeepers by encouraging their good work in this small way.”

In an effort to protect students, faculty and administrators against crime, a worsening problem at the De Marillac Academy in San Francisco, they all will be given cell-phone security accounts so that they can use their cell phones to immediately dial for help when they feel threatened. Participants will be given help setting up their phones and groups, and in a panic situation, they will be able to summon help quickly and quietly. Up to twelve people will be automatically dialed by the Boma system in a conference-call setting to decide how best to support the person who has asked for help. Boma is a name derived from the African barriers built from branches built to protect people from predators. The company is also involved in a 'win back the neighborhood' campaign.

Founded in 2001 by the Daughters of Charity and De La Salle Christian Brothers, De Marillac Academy provides students in San Francisco's impoverished Tenderloin neighborhood with an education to escape the grip of poverty, achieve success, and become service-oriented leaders. De Marillac is open to students of all faiths and cultural backgrounds. Unlike any other private school in San Francisco, De Marillac offers a tuition-free, high-quality, Catholic education to children from low-income and underserved households. <<http://www2.demarillac.org/>>

About The Elfenworks Foundation: The Elfenworks Foundation was created in an effort to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in innovative and unconventional ways. We strive to be *-In Harmony With Hope-* by shining light on causes that benefit humanity. In affiliation with U.S. centers of academic excellence, our multi-faceted, creative and hardworking team of social entrepreneurs and advisors draws on expertise in *communications, technology, film, music, law, and business administration* to empower the nonprofits we serve; we remove obstacles, help strengthen program and business-model capacities, build infrastructures, forge alliances, and raise awareness about these organizations and our shared agenda. In this way we work in harmony towards our common goal of positive, measurable and sustainable change. Our current goal is to ameliorate domestic poverty and provide new hope for the disenfranchised here at home. For more information, visit www.elfenworksfoundation.org.

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