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'A CONCERT FOR HOPE' LAUNCHES INEQUALITY.COM AND DOMESTIC POVERTY ON TO PUBLIC AGENDA

Call-to-action generated by Stanford University and The Elfenworks Foundation in an effort to awaken national community to poverty cause

NEW YORK (October 2007) – On Thursday, September 6, 2007 the mission of helping to bring domestic poverty to the top of the American public's agenda was officially launched with 'A Concert For Hope' at Stanford University. Co-sponsored by The Elfenworks Foundation, the event celebrated the opening of the Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality and their site Inequality.com, and also served as a call-to-action for the Silicon Valley community and beyond to take on the pressing issue of domestic poverty as has been done with the issue of global warming.

"Professor David Grusky's work points the way to a revolution in the way we think about the poor and homeless – and now he's thrown down the gauntlet to the thought leaders of Silicon Valley," says Lauren Speeth, CEO of the Elfenworks Foundation.

Calling Stanford the academic and intellectual center of Silicon Valley, Speeth argues that the Center is uniquely positioned to place domestic poverty and economic inequality at the top of the agenda, both locally and nationally.

"Tonight, Professor Grusky challenged business and thought leaders everywhere," she said after the event. "Business is responding valiantly and with amazing innovation to the problems of environmental degradation and global warming," says Dr. Speeth. "Why not think of poverty and homelessness as the same kind of environmental 'pollution,' and apply the same level of energy and innovation to eliminating these scourges? The issues are not simply moral issues, problems that can be solved through traditional practices of 'charity.'"

The hundreds of individuals who filled up the pews of Stanford's Memorial Church were inspired by remarks from Richard Saller, Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, along with the words from David Grusky, Director of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality. Lauren Speeth, CEO of The Elfenworks Foundation, also touched the crowd with her words of hope, and honored individuals who serve as examples of 'change' with 'In Harmony with Hope' awards. Paul Minorini, CEO of

Boys Hope Girls Hope, and Joyce Dattner, Founder and Director of the Bay Area All Stars, both received awards that night. Mrs. Rosalynn Carter of The Carter Center and Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health are additional recipients, with each award carrying a \$25,000 grant.

Music written especially for ‘A Concert For Hope’ premiered at the event and served as artistic inspiration – the first, a new major composition, *La Povertà*, by Stanford composer and professor Giancarlo Aquilanti was performed by the Elfenworks Festival String Ensemble (members of Symphony Silicon Valley) with sopranos Shawnette Sulker and Rebecca Plack, under the baton of maestro Mitchell Sardou Klein of the Peninsula Symphony. The moving piece was accompanied by footage from *Faces of Poverty* displayed on screens adjacent to the stage, a film produced and directed by Gerard Straub of the San Damiano Foundation in cooperation with The Elfenworks Foundation.

Also premiered was special gospel music “I Shall Not Be Moved” and a second original composition, “In Harmony With Hope” written in celebration of the opening of the center, by pianist/composer/arranger/long-time Stanford Jazz Workshop faculty member Tammy Lynne Hall. The songs, featuring Ms. Hall conducting and at the piano, with Rhonda Benin, Valerie Joi Fiddmont, and La Tonya Reed vocals, Michaelle Goerlitz, percussion and Don Kane on bass, were flanked by startling on-screen statistics on poverty and inequality – and contributed to the sense of magic that brought this cause into the hearts of all who participated that night.

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. “The Elfenworks Foundation and their CEO, Lauren Speeth, have become a real force to contend with on the poverty front,” notes Professor David Grusky, Director of the Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality.

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