



YOUTH SERVICES

For Immediate Release

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Friends of Larkin Street Hosts Inaugural Gala

Young Philanthropists Raise Funds and Awareness for Homeless and At-Risk Youth

San Francisco—February 6, 2011—Friends of Larkin Street, quickly becoming one of the Bay Area's most prestigious groups of aspiring young philanthropists, kicked off the 2011 fundraising season with its First Annual Gala for Larkin Street Youth Services hosted at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. The gala was attended by over 300 high profile young professionals and Larkin Street supporters and proceeds will benefit Larkin Street's 25 different programs serving homeless and at-risk youth in San Francisco.

The Gala received generous support from Hero Sponsors Silicon Valley Bank, Philosophy Cosmetics and Kimberly Thier Events. Catering was provided by Grace Lee Events. The event kicked off with a silent auction followed with a live performance by popular 80's cover band Tainted Love.

Friends of Larkin Street was formed in 2009 to raise awareness about youth homelessness and Larkin Street among mid-career professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area. Friends of Larkin Street hosts various events and activities throughout the year focused on raising funds to support Larkin Street's 25 programs for homeless and at risk youth ages 12-24, generate internships for youth with local companies through Hire Up's Internship for Hire Learning (IHL), and provide a pipeline of future Board members. Since its inception in 2009, total event attendance has exceeded 1,500 and Larkin Street's donor base has increased significantly as a result of the Friends of Larkin Street events and activities.

"Friends of Larkin Street is an excellent example of what a committed group of people can do to collectively make a difference to help solve the problem of homelessness among our youth," said Rob Theis, Managing Director, Scale Venture Partners. "Children and young adults can grow up to do great things, if they have the right support and guidance, but unfortunately, many youths must leave dysfunctional and sometimes violent family situations. Larkin Street provides a comprehensive set of programs including housing, mentoring, counseling, education and internships, providing the foundation upon which these youth can start to build successful lives."

"We formed Friends of Larkin Street because we saw an opportunity to meet a longstanding community need, support an efficiently run nonprofit, and have fun in the process," said Michelle Pampin, Friends of Larkin Street Board Member. "The youth that Larkin Street serves didn't choose this life but came from homes where they had little or no support. The Friends are fortunate that we have an opportunity to help homeless youth move beyond the streets."

Now in its 26th year, Larkin Street Youth Services has served over 70,000 youth since its inception in 1984. There are an estimated 5,700 youth that are homeless, marginally housed or at risk of homelessness each year in San Francisco. Larkin Street provides over 3,400 youth each year with housing, education, employment and medical services and continues to see an increase in the need for housing and services. The funds raised by the Friend's Gala will help Larkin Street to continue to provide high quality programs for at-risk youth. Seventy-six percent the youth who complete the full continuum of services at Larkin Street successfully exit street life.

For more information about Friends of Larkin Street, please visit their page, Friends of Larkin Street, on [Facebook](#) or visit www.larkinstreetyouth.org.

About Larkin Street Youth Services

Founded in 1984, San Francisco's Larkin Street Youth Services is an internationally recognized leader providing innovative, effective housing, medical, social and educational services to at-risk, homeless and runaway youth ages 12-24 across 25 programs and 13 sites. Seventy-six percent of youth who complete Larkin Street's comprehensive programs exit street life. For more information, please visit www.larkinstreetyouth.org.

About Friends of Larkin Street

Friends of Larkin Street was formed with a goal to raise awareness and funding for Larkin Street Youth Services among mid-career professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area by hosting local events and providing internships for at-risk youth with local companies through Hire Up's Internship for Hire Learning (IHL). All proceeds from Friends of Larkin Street events benefit Larkin Street's 25 programs for homeless and at risk youth ages 12-24.