



YOUTH SERVICES

For Immediate Release

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Larkin Street Youth Services Hosts 8th *Paving the Way* Gala Honoring the Gap Foundation for "Funding the Future" for At-Risk Youth

Event raises over \$500,000 and Celebrates Organization's Service to Over 3,600 Homeless and At-Risk Youth in San Francisco in 2009

San Francisco—March 10, 2010—*Paving the Way For Our Youth*, Larkin Street Youth Services' eighth annual benefit and fund-raising event, kicked off the organization's 26th year and recognized the Gap Foundation for their work with youth at the Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco on March 3, 2010. Attended by over 370 community leaders and Larkin Street supporters, the event at the Four Seasons San Francisco raised over \$500,000 to support Larkin Street's 25 different programs serving runaway and at-risk youth in San Francisco with 84% of all fundraising at Larkin Street allocated directly to programs.

The Gap Foundation was honored by Larkin Street for the Foundation's commitment to bettering the lives of youth, nationally and internationally, and for their long term partnership supporting Larkin Street's youth. Larkin Street has been working with the Gap Foundation since 1990 as a collaborative partner. In total, Larkin Street has received over \$435,000 in funding from the Gap Foundation to enrich and expand the organization's Hire Up Educational and Employment Program among others. Additionally, through two capacity building grants, the Gap Foundation created a two year leadership development program at Larkin Street and offered participation to a select number of other nonprofit youth-serving grantees. Employees from Gap Inc. have also volunteered hundreds of hours of their time to provide state-of-the-art training and professional development to their nonprofit senior manager colleagues at Larkin Street.

"Larkin Street is not only providing critically-important services to at-risk youth in the Bay Area, but is also 'paving the way' nationally as a respected leader championing best practices in serving homeless youth through its innovative and successful programs," Bobbi Silten, Chief Foundation Officer, Gap Inc., said. "We are proud to be a partner of Larkin Street Youth Services, an organization that truly stands by its founding belief that homeless youth deserve the chance to reclaim their lives."

Three Larkin Street youth were presented with the 2010 "Going the Distance" Larkin Street Youth Achievement Awards. The "Going the Distance" award honors those Larkin Street youth who have made the greatest strides from where they began to where they are today, overcoming significant barriers on the path to realizing their goals.

"I thank Larkin Street for this award and for keeping me on the right path," said Mahesh, youth award honoree. "They have been supportive in helping me meet my own goals and my living situation has greatly improved. I'm away from the bad influences from my past now and I have a positive place to live and am looking forward to the future."

In 2010, Larkin Street celebrates its 26th year, having served over 70,000 youth since first opening in 1984. 80% of the youth who complete the full continuum of services at Larkin Street successfully exit street life.

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. Eighty percent of youth who complete Larkin Street's comprehensive programs exit street life. For more information, please visit

www.larkinstreetyouth.org.

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