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“FOSTERING THEIR FUTURE” BENEFIT CONCERT IN PALO ALTO TO HELP EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH

Fund-raiser Features Shana Morrison and Stanford Football’s A Cappella Choir

PALO ALTO, CA (June 22, 2005) – The Heart of Silicon Valley, a Bay-Area-based non-profit organization, is once again showing what can happen when a dedicated and caring group of volunteers uses music to raise money and awareness for a good cause. The group is hard at work planning another one of its signature musical events – an intimate outdoor concert to benefit and celebrate the work of local charitable organizations dedicated to foster youth.

The recipients of funds raised by the upcoming Heart of Silicon Valley (HOSV) benefit concert, “Fostering Their Future,” on Saturday, July 23, 2005, 4-7:30 pm, are three extraordinary Bay Area non-profit agencies serving foster youth: The First Place Fund for Youth (Oakland); Jeremiah’s Promise (Palo Alto); and Child Advocates (San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties).

“California is home to one out of every five foster children in the nation. We often hear about the hurdles these kids face, but what happens when they are no longer kids, when they turn 18 and have grown out of the only housing and support network they have? Far too many become homeless.” said Ronnie Lott, former San Francisco 49er, member of the NFL Hall of Fame and Founder of All Stars Helping Kids, which supports the work of these organizations to help emancipated foster youth establish successful, independent lives.

With this concert, HOSV intends to raise money and awareness about the needs and difficulties these kids face once they become “emancipated” from the foster care system and the ways in which these organizations are helping a growing number of emancipated youth prepare to live a life of independence.

Singer/songwriter Shana Morrison of San Francisco will be one of the performing artists at the benefit. Shana toured for a number of years as part of her father, Van Morrison’s “Rhythm and Soul Review.” Since 1996 she has been performing with her band Caledonia and has toured widely in the U.S. and Europe. Shana’s style has been referred to as pop with a side of blues and a side of rock. She has also been known to include country, R&B, and jazz in the mix, earning her comparisons to Sheryl Crow and Shawn Colvin, with traces of Sinead O’Connor’s style showing through as well. Her 2002 CD release “7 Wishes” has received wide acclaim, with “Rolling Stone” saying, “With a smooth, elastic voice and a style that lands between jazz chanteuse and rock chick, Morrison has won an enthusiastic following.”



Also performing is Stanford Football's fabulous a cappella choir. This incongruous group of Stanford football players has garnered attention, both for their singing prowess and humorous delivery, ever since they began singing together in the locker room. The helmet-clad sextet -- which collectively weighs in as a 1,390 pound music-making machine -- combines doo-wop traditions and pop with choreography and comedy.

Rounding out the afternoon will be a brief video and a special appearance by a surprise guest, yet to be announced, as well as presentations by youth who have benefited from the services provided by the three agencies. These young adults will reveal their first-hand experiences and the challenges they have faced once "emancipated" from the system.

About the Organizations

The First Place Fund for Youth, founded in 1998, works to remedy the lack of services available to youth who are making the difficult transition from foster care to independent living. Its services, targeted primarily for ages 16 to 23, include assistance with housing, education and employment.

Jeremiah's Promise offers shared housing with other emancipated teens who are provided with living services, mentors, academic support and life skills development in a nurturing environment, all of which are aimed at fully equipping them for life beyond foster care.

Child Advocates, founded in 1986, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to stand up for abused and neglected children in foster care, helping them thrive and find safe, permanent homes. Through the organization's Transitioning Teens Program, Advocate volunteers work with teens ages 14 to 18 to develop the life skills, network of relationships and life records needed to succeed as independent adults.

Heart of Silicon Valley (HOSV) was founded in 2002 when a group of people, mostly in their twenties and thirties, realized they could make a difference by working together for a worthy cause. Fueled by the desire to contribute to the community in a rich and personal way, HOSV raises funds for different charitable organizations by bringing people together through music in intimate venues, usually homes, on the Peninsula. HOSV provides a means for professionals, philanthropists, musicians, and businesses to work together to raise money and visibility for non-profits. To date, HOSV has raised more than \$100,000 to benefit inner-city at-risk children, after-school enrichment programs, and young adults with cancer, among others.

Tickets (tax-deductible) for "Fostering Their Future" featuring Shana Morrison, the Stanford Football 'A Cappella' Choir and others on Sat., July 23, 4-7:30 pm, are \$35 – \$75 – \$125 per person, based on ability to pay. Purchase tickets in advance at www.hosv.org or at the door, as available. The outdoor concert, which includes a reception and silent auction, will be held at the Fire Circle Amphitheater, Lucie Stern Center, Palo Alto. For event/sponsoring organization info, The First Place Fund for Youth (firstplacefund.org); Child Advocates (cadvocates.org); Jeremiah's Promise (jeremiahspromise.org); Heart of Silicon Valley (hosv.org) or contact Yvonne Wolters, ywolters@earthlink.net, 650-856-8041.

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Calendar Listing

• Benefit Concert

CONTACT: Yvonne Wolters, Heart of Silicon Valley, ywolters@earthlink.net

WHAT: “Fostering Their Future” featuring Vocalist Shana Morrison & Caledonia, Stanford Football Players ‘a cappella’ Choir, and others
Outdoor Concert in Palo Alto to Benefit Emancipated Foster Youth

WHO: Produced by Heart of Silicon Valley (HOSV) in conjunction with The First Place Fund for Youth, Jeremiah’s Promise, and Child Advocates

WHEN: Saturday, July 23, 2005, 4-7:30 pm

WHERE: Fire Circle Amphitheater, Lucie Stern Center, Palo Alto

COST: Tickets (tax-deductible) \$35 - \$75 - \$125 per person, based on ability to pay
Pre-purchase tickets in advance at www.hosv.org or at the door, as available

INFO: www.hosv.org; www.firstplacefund.org; www.jeremiahspromise.org;
www.cadvocates.org
Yvonne Wolters, ywolters.earthlink.net, 650/856-8041

NARRATIVE:

Heart of Silicon Valley (HOSV), in conjunction with The First Place Fund for Youth (Oakland), Jeremiah’s Promise (Palo Alto) and Child Advocates (San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties), presents a benefit concert -- “Fostering Their Future” -- on Saturday, July 23, 2005, 4 – 7:30 pm featuring vocalist Shana Morrison & Caledonia, the Stanford Football Player’s a cappella choir and others. The outdoor concert, with brief presentations by emancipated youth, will benefit three local non-profits providing foster care programs and services to emancipated youth who have aged out of the foster care system. HOSV, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, raises funds for local charities by bringing people together through music in intimate venues, usually homes, around the Peninsula. “Fostering Their Future” will be held at the Fire Circle Amphitheater, Lucie Stern Center, Palo Alto. Tax-deductible tickets for the benefit concert, which includes a reception and silent auction, are \$35 - \$75 - \$125 per person and are available for purchase at www.hosv.org. Tickets will also be on sale at the door, as available. For information about the event and the organizations, see: The First Place Fund for Youth (firstplacefund.org); Child Advocates (cadvocates.org); Jeremiah’s Promise (jeremiahspromise.org); Heart of Silicon Valley (hosv.org) or contact Yvonne Wolters, ywolters@earthlink.net, 650/856-8041