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The Society of Young Philanthropists Launches Dallas Chapter

SYP Dallas will tap into a younger demographic to raise awareness and funds for a local non-profit with its first annual charity-fundraiser

Founding Executive Board elected

DALLAS (Feb. 1, 2010) – The Society of Young Philanthropists (SYP), a Los Angeles-based not-for-profit group, has launched a chapter in Dallas. SYP is a 501 (c) (3) organization designed to create a network of distinguished professionals by supporting and promoting philanthropic causes. Through charitable events, they seek to raise awareness and instill a commitment to philanthropy in the next generation of community leaders.

After founding SYP in L.A. in 2004, Elishia Shokrian Bolour brought the mission and vision to Dallas in 2009 while earning her Master's degree in Entrepreneurship from Southern Methodist University. The L.A. chapter started with only 30 members and has since grown to include more than 3,000.

"Young adults that may not be in an immediate position to share significant financial contributions still want to get involved and give back," said Bolour. "The Society of Young Philanthropists provides them an outlet to utilize their networks, business, social or educational resources in order to make a difference in their community. I see many similarities between the founding committee members we have enlisted here in Dallas with those back in L.A. in 2004, and I have no doubt that the Dallas chapter will see as much if not more success."

Membership is free as the organization seeks to tap the younger demographic (21-40 year-olds) by offering an attractive way to get involved in philanthropy. SYP is not tied to a specific charity, which allows its members to steer its direction and make an impact on several not-for-profit groups throughout the area. Social activities and events are intended to benefit various causes while bringing Dallas youth together in a positive atmosphere to further their own interests and strengthen their ties and connections within the community.

First Annual Society Gala Fundraiser

SYP's largest source of funds is generated at its annual society gala fundraiser, with the majority donated to a selected charity and a portion for SYP's own endowment. The L.A. chapter raised \$60,000 at its first gala, of which \$30,000 was donated to an L.A. non-profit and \$30,000 established the group's endowment. Since the group's inception, the Los Angeles chapter has raised more than \$300,000 for local and international causes, in addition to growing its own endowment.

The Dallas chapter will host its first annual society gala on Saturday, May 22, 2010 and aims to rival L.A.'s first-year success. The evening gala will include sponsored food and drink, live entertainment, a silent auction and raffle prizes. The first beneficiary, as well as the event location will be named in the coming months.

SYP Dallas Founding Executive Board

Amidst its 34 founding committee members, SYP Dallas has elected eight founding executive board members who will be responsible for raising initial funds and the success of the group's debut event. They are also forged with the tasks of establishing relationships with local charities, securing the chapter's endowment and increasing membership. Their positions with SYP Dallas and in their respective professional settings are as follows:

- **Kent Arnold – President**
Assistant Vice President, Henry S. Miller Brokerage, LLC
- **Liz Healy – Executive Vice President**
President, Oh!Five Partners, LLC
- **Brittany Lefler – V.P. Finance**
Auditor, KPMG Dallas
- **Eric Lyons – V.P. Charity Programming**
Founder, Hope For The Silent Voices
- **Lindsey Miller – V.P. Community Relations**
Reporter, DFW Reporting
- **Halle Smith – V.P. Public Relations**
Public Relations & Marketing Professional, Jackson Spalding
- **Blair Quick – V.P. Event Planning**
Graduate Student, Southern Methodist University
- **Elishia Shokrian Bolour – Founder & Secretary**
Regional Director, Califco, LLC
Graduate Student, Southern Methodist University

"I'm inspired by the collective talent, vast range of experience and drive our founding executive board members have for SYP Dallas," said SYP Dallas President Kent Arnold. "Their unparalleled passion can significantly impact our local chapter, and in turn, the Dallas community."

About SYP Dallas

The Society of Young Philanthropists is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization designed to create a network of distinguished professionals by supporting and promoting philanthropic causes. Through charitable events, we will raise awareness and instill a commitment to philanthropy in the next generation of community leaders. Founded in Los Angeles in 2004, SYP expanded to Dallas in 2009. Not tied to a specific charity, SYP seeks to make an impact on several non-profit groups throughout the community.

To learn more about SYP Dallas, or to make a donation, visit www.sypdallas.org. Follow SYP Dallas on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sypdallas and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sypdallas.

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