

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES CHICAGO CHAPTER

Washington, DC (December 9, 2008) — The Social Enterprise Alliance, a national association representing the growing number of social enterprises across the country, names its third local chapter. Social Enterprise Alliance—Chicago hosts learning and networking opportunities among social enterprises, foundations, lenders, educators, entrepreneurs and technical assistance providers in the Chicago region to foster a robust sector of organizations using business strategies for generating social and environmental value.

The Social Enterprise Alliance's Summit, now in its 10th year, annually convenes over 500 enterprising leaders for training on the nuts and bolts of planning and operating a social enterprise. SEA launched its chapter program earlier this year to provide peer networking and information exchange in local communities year-round for practitioners and supporters of enterprises seeking both a social and financial return.

"SEA chapters will help to accelerate social innovation in communities and spur the emergence of a robust local support system for social enterprise," says Social Enterprise Alliance President Kris Prendergast.

Attorney and financial advisor Marc J. Lane, who spearheaded the launch of Social Enterprise Alliance—Chicago, sees the chapter as a practical response to the increasing demand for sustainable social innovation: "Chicago's nonprofits and social-purpose businesses are eager to apply entrepreneurial principles to drive positive social change."

Growing in numbers, social enterprises harness the strength of marketplace practices with the values and objectives of the social sector to address some of society's most pressing social problems. With the tightening of the economy and its ripple effects, today's social enterprises are more important than ever to sustain vital human and employment services, youth development, environmental quality, and other public benefit programs in ways that are more financially self-sustaining.

About the Social Enterprise Alliance

The Social Enterprise Alliance (SEA) has emerged as the common ground for entrepreneurs, lenders, investors, grantmakers, consultants, researchers and educators who recognize the increasing role for social enterprise in helping to create a more sustainable and equitable world. In addition to hosting the annual Social Enterprise Summit, SEA provides its members with current information, tools, and other resources that address the unique needs of social enterprises. Visit SEA at www.se-alliance.org.

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