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CONTACT: Jeanne Culver
214/352-5980 office
214/912-2163 cell
jeanneculver@sbcglobal.net

DALLAS SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS ADDS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO THEIR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Nonprofit organization assists juvenile offenders through various educational programs

DALLAS (December 10, 2008) – Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP) today announced that The Youth Village Foundation will be added to their social investment portfolio for 2009. A grant of \$30,000 of unrestricted general operating funds was awarded to The Youth Village Foundation. The Youth Village Foundation is the 14th nonprofit agency to be added to DSVP's investment portfolio.

DSVP awarded grants to nine nonprofit groups for 2009 totaling \$295,000. Eight of the awardees are groups who have been supported by DSVP for one to five years. As part of the DSVP social investment model, groups are chosen for support with financial and human resources over three to five years.

"We were impressed by the number of programs The Youth Village Foundation provides for at risk young men, primarily through volunteers," said Stacy Caldwell, Dallas Social Venture Partners executive director. "They have six programs that range from educational assistance to dog training. They collaborate with community leaders to design programs that have proven results to divert these kids from further involvement with the juvenile justice system."

Founded in 2001, The Youth Village Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization formed to benefit the residents of the Dallas County Youth Village in areas where Dallas County Juvenile Services does not have sufficient resources. Their programs make it possible to remain in contact with young men in the Dallas County Youth Village and Medlock Residential Treatment Center systems both during their residency and after release. By maintaining contact with these young men, who are ages 10 to 17, after they are released from residential programs and exiting probation, they continue to meet their needs and offer them solutions to their every day challenges.

Existing programs that The Youth Village Foundation provides are Computer Education; a state licensed Certified Food Management program; Nutrition and Culinary Arts; Horticulture and Greenhouse; and P.R.E.P. Dog training (Patience, Responsibility, Empathy and Partnership). P.R.E.P. is a three-week human-animal bonding program. A team of two students is assigned a dog in need of basic obedience training. The kids develop anger management, impulse control and self discipline techniques and many of the dogs are successfully adopted into homes once their socialization skills have been developed.

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Jerry Silhan, executive director of The Youth Village Foundation said, “The opportunities to develop programs for skill and job training that will be both interesting to our young men and valuable in the community are vast. This grant from DSVP will help make it possible to offer more solutions to these at risk youth.” Silhan also recognized the value of the human resources DSVP will be adding to his group’s business operations. “We are looking forward to having DSVP members consulting with us on Board growth and governance and to review our financial operations so we can create strong financial oversight.”

Launched in Dallas in 2000, DSVP is one of 24 chapters in North America who are members of Social Venture Partners International. With 95 **partner units** (what they call members) which represent 135 individuals, DSVP currently supports 14 **investees** (what they call the nonprofit organizations they support) chosen to be in their **portfolio** (what they call the group of organizations they support). DSVP is a nonprofit organization of individuals and foundations committed to strengthen the North Texas community through the thoughtful application of their collective dollars and business expertise.

About Dallas Social Venture Partners

Dallas Social Venture Partners, established in 2000, supports nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving children at risk, particularly in the area of education. DSVP maintains a social investment portfolio of nonprofit agencies that have the ability to make long-term, sustainable impacts and positive change for children in North Texas. Over the past eight years, DSVP has distributed a total of over \$1.5 million to North Texas nonprofits and our members have contributed thousands of hours of service to 14 nonprofit organizations. With more than 135 partners in our membership, Dallas is one of the largest affiliates in the SVP network. For additional information about Dallas Social Venture Partners, please visit www.dsvp.org.

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