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## Oakland Nonprofit Leader to Receive International Social Enterprise Leadership Award

**Barrie Hathaway, Executive Director of Oakland's Stride Center, to be honored April 29.**

Oakland, Cal – 26 April 2010 -- As part of their commitment to highlighting exemplary practice, the Social Enterprise Alliance is pleased to announce the 2010 Social Enterprise Awards, to be presented at the Social Enterprise Summit in San Francisco on April 29, 2010. These prestigious awards honor superior achievement, visionary leadership and high-impact innovation in social enterprise, and provide inspiring examples for the field. This year, Barrie Hathaway, Executive Director of the Stride Center of Oakland, is the domestic winner of the Social Enterprise Leadership Award.

A social enterprise is an organization or venture that achieves its primary social or environmental mission using business methods. Social enterprise includes both nonprofits and for-profits that operate businesses to address critical problems in many areas.

The awards will be presented during the evening banquet on Thursday, during the 11th Social Enterprise Summit/3rd Social Enterprise World Forum.

Said Jerr Boschee, Interim President and CEO of the Social Enterprise Alliance, "We congratulate Barrie Hathaway for clearly demonstrating the core characteristics of a leader -- including vision, courage, the ability to inspire others, and to make good judgments and stay the course while leading and building an effective social enterprise. For those of us who have been in the field of social enterprise for decades, as I have been, it's wonderful to be surrounded by the types of leaders you have proven yourself to be."

"While I'll be the one receiving this award, I know more than anyone that this award is really because of the amazing work of a lot of people... most notably Ben Delaney, CEO of ReliaTech, our social venture, Patrick Cheung, ReliaTech's Operations Manager, and their outstanding team," said Barrie Hathaway. "ReliaTech makes the work of the Stride Center – training low-income adults to become

computer technicians – real to the students who intern there, and also provides them a great example of what this work is really like. ReliaTech makes an invaluable contribution to the credence and finances of the Stride Center. In addition, by making low-cost, high-quality computers and computer service available to underserved neighborhoods around the Bay Area, ReliaTech helps promote our mission of bridging the digital divide, and making it possible for every member of our community to participate fully in society by having access to education, jobs, and health information that is only available on the Internet."

### About the Stride Center and ReliaTech

For more than ten years, The Stride Center (formerly Street Tech) has made a huge positive impact on the lives of hundreds of these individuals living in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Stride Center's workforce development program is helping economically disadvantaged, low income, and underserved individuals in our community gain access to the vast resources of the digital revolution, along with financial

*Barrie Hathaway, Executive Director of the Stride Center, in Oakland.*





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independence.

The Stride Center is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization that offers a unique program combining technical, career, and life skills training with access to computer equipment, work experience, and lifetime job placement services. The Stride Center's classes in computer technology enable graduates to get nationally-recognized certifications in several areas of technical expertise.

Currently providing training in six Bay Area locations, the Stride Center will enroll over 500 students in 2010. The Stride Center's measurable success includes a near 80% retention rate and an 80% placement rate.

ReliaTech, the social venture of The Stride Center, was created to provide jobs and internship opportunities for Stride Center students and an income stream that helps fund the center's nonprofit mission. ReliaTech serves a broad range of customers from individuals to small businesses to local nonprofit organizations. Staffed by Stride Center graduates, ReliaTech provides competitively-priced, high quality computer service in four Bay Area stores, and on-site service throughout the region. ReliaTech also refurbishes thousands of computers, preventing them from being dumped in landfills, and enabling low-income people, nonprofit organizations, churches, schools, and senior centers to have a source of high-quality computers at far-below market prices. In addition, internships at ReliaTech provides real-life work experience for Stride Center students.

For more information, visit the Stride Center's website at [www.stridecenter.org](http://www.stridecenter.org), or call 510 234-1300. To learn more about ReliaTech, visit their website: [www.reliatech.org](http://www.reliatech.org), or call 510 236-7000.

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Note to editors: Photos are available. Mr. Hathaway is available for interviews. You are invited to visit the Stride Center.