



MEDIA ADVISORY

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SF MAYOR NAMES OCTOBER 20TH YOUNG NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS DAY
Three Bay Area Young Nonprofit Professionals Honored for Service by YNPN:
Demet Yezgi, Tarita T. Whittingham, and Aspen Baker

(SAN FRANCISCO) – Tuesday, October 18, 2005 – Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN) is proud to announce that Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco has named Thursday, October 20, 2005, Young Nonprofit Professionals Day. To recognize the importance of the strong and growing young nonprofit community in the Bay Area, YNPN San Francisco Bay Area will honor three highly effective nonprofit leaders on that day.

The evening celebration on Young Nonprofit Professionals Day will also celebrate the eighth anniversary of YNPN and the launch of its membership program. YNPN is a national organization promoting an efficient, viable, and inclusive nonprofit sector that supports the growth, learning, and development of young professionals. The San Francisco Bay Area chapter's membership program provides paying members with special access to enhanced professional development opportunities and financial discounts.

“YNPN is supporting and preparing the next generation of nonprofit leaders and we're honored to celebrate these three outstanding nonprofit professionals who are inspiring their peers,” said Dee Dee Mendoza, co-chair of YNPN San Francisco Bay Area. “We thank the Mayor for calling much needed attention to the importance of nurturing the young people who will lead the future nonprofit community, as this current generation prepares to retire in the next ten years.”

Each winner will receive a gift certificate to attend a professional development workshop at the CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, a leading Bay Area educational organization for nonprofit workers; they will also be presented with certificates of recognition from the Mayor of San Francisco.

Event Details

What: YNPN 8th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Ceremony
When: Thursday, October 20, 2005
6 pm – 9 pm
Where: Azul
1 Tillman Place – off of Grant between Post and Sutter Streets – San Francisco
Tickets: Admission is \$12 for non-members (\$5 for members) and will include appetizers, 2 drinks, raffle prizes, music. Tickets available for purchase online at <http://tinyurl.com/7we9g> or at the door.

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Winners

Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year: Ms. Demet Yezgi, founding president, Friends of Anatolia

Demet Yezgi successfully brings Turks and Americans together to foster cultural exchange and build alliances for the betterment of communities. At Education Volunteers Foundation in Turkey, Demet recruited a record 10,000 youth volunteers and helped found the Turkish Community Volunteers Foundation. Since her move to the Bay Area from Turkey two years ago, Demet has completed a certificate in the Nonprofit Management Program from San Jose State University, worked as an assistant development director at Stanford University, and recently started a masters program in nonprofit administration at San Francisco University. Last December, she founded Friends of Anatolia and in less than a year, Demet recruited a team of over 65 volunteers and built a donor base of 400 individual donors. Under Demet's leadership, Friends of Anatolia has raised more than \$50,000 to support two school repair projects in Turkey and established a volunteer center in Mountain View.

Young Board Member of the Year: Ms. Tarita T. Whittingham, board member, C.E.O. Women, SF Earn, and Asian Neighborhood Design

Tarita Whittingham works on the boards of economic development-centered nonprofits has benefited the lives of thousands of low-income individuals, working poor, immigrants/refugees, and women in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tarita is one of the founding board members of C.E.O. Women and has led its development committee to record fundraising levels. C.E.O. Women is dedicated to transforming the lives of low-income immigrant and refugee women in becoming economically self-sufficient and integrated members of society through programs that bring together the worlds of entrepreneurship, asset education and English as a Second Language. SF Earn is the only asset building organization in the nation that is working simultaneously to open the door to financial success for the working poor, pilot new solutions to poverty that can be put to work on a large scale, and transform asset policy in California. Asian Neighborhood Design is a community development agency providing architecture and planning, family and youth self-sufficiency services, employment training, and housing and community development for low-income, multicultural communities.

Young Executive Director of the Year: Ms. Aspen Baker, executive director, Exhale

In 1999, shortly after graduating from UC Berkeley, Aspen Baker had an abortion. This experience served as a catalyst to launching an innovative organization, and displaying enormous leadership at a young age. Unable to find a comforting and supportive place to talk about her personal experience, Aspen decided it was time for a change. Only a year after her own abortion, Aspen worked with other women to make her vision a reality. Together, they founded Exhale in 2000 and launched the nation's first after-abortion talkline in 2002. The mission of Exhale is to create a social climate where each person's unique experience with abortion is respected, supported, and free from stigma. Now, under Aspen's leadership, Oakland-based Exhale is a national leader in defining and promoting post-abortion health and well-being and transforming the stigma of abortion.

About the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN)

The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network promotes an efficient, viable, and inclusive nonprofit sector that supports the growth, learning, and development of young professionals. It engages and supports

future nonprofit and community leaders through professional development, networking, and social opportunities designed for young people involved in the Bay Area's nonprofit community. Formed in July 1997 as a project of CompassPoint Nonprofit Services (formerly the Support Center), YNPN San Francisco Bay Area aims to provide a peer network to Bay Area's young nonprofit professionals. Though YNPN welcomes people of all ages, most of its members are in their 20s and 30s or are transitioning into the nonprofit sector.

Entirely volunteer led and coordinated, YNPN is a national organization that has grown tremendously over the past eight years and has become an active voice for young nonprofit leaders in the Bay Area. Today YNPN provides a wide-variety of services including an e-mail list where more than 1,200 community participants exchange information and referrals, learn about special events and workshops, post and receive job announcements, and share ideas on issues facing the sector; an interactive website linking the nonprofit community to information and resources; monthly networking social hours held at various locations throughout the Bay Area; and access to a wide range of career development workshops and panels for its members. The newly launched membership program provides paying members with special access to enhanced professional development opportunities and financial discounts. By fostering discussion, networking, and information-sharing, YNPN creates a supportive atmosphere for members to make valuable connections.