



STAR/PAL Recognized as 2011 Neighborhood Builder

Bank of America announces 2011 Neighborhood Excellence Initiative winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego, Calif. (November 7, 2011) – STAR/PAL has been selected by Bank of America as a 2011 Neighborhood Builder in the San Diego region. This initiative provides \$200,000 in funding for STAR/PAL, one of 92 high-impact nonprofits across 44 U.S. cities and London. In addition to this capacity building grant, the executive director and an emerging leader from the organization will participate in intensive strategic leadership development training.

“As a former prosecutor with the City of San Diego working in the criminal justice system, I can attest to the critical nature of the work we do at STAR/PAL,” said Chandani Flinn, executive director of STAR/PAL. “Teaching our kids about safety issues, civic engagement and the importance of getting involved in enrichment activities pays major dividends. Our organization is truly unique in its ability to bring law enforcement role models together with underserved youth in order to empower them to make positive choices for themselves which ultimately benefits the whole community.”

“STAR/PAL is an outstanding San Diego nonprofit that brings youth and law enforcement together to create role model relationships and build safer communities that benefits everyone” said Rick Bregman, Bank of America San Diego Market President. “Bank of America is proud to recognize them as a terrific representative of the Neighborhood Builder award.”

STAR/PAL’s focus exemplifies police and community collaboration. The STAR/PAL facility in Colina Del Sol Park, surrounded by five neighborhood schools in City Heights, offers a sense of safety to hundreds of youth who walk to and from school. Through a wide array of on-site and off-site youth programs, STAR/PAL promotes crime prevention, community building, and leadership development, all under the tutelage of police and probation officers.

Since creating the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative in 2004, Bank of America has provided \$3.6 million to San Diego nonprofits. More information about the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative can be found at www.bankofamerica.com/nei.

About STAR/PAL: STAR/PAL is a nonprofit organization that provides over 10,000 youth services annually in inner-city neighborhoods throughout the city and county of San Diego. STAR/PAL offers free educational, athletic, and recreational programs which focus on promoting youth safety, positive life choices, and academic success. All STAR/PAL program directors are full-time law enforcement officers who coordinate unique programs and recruit additional law enforcement and community volunteers to work directly with underserved youth. By bringing youth & law enforcement officers together in this manner, STAR/PAL helps build safer communities in the long run. **For more information, visit www.starpal.org or call 619-531-2718.**

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STAR/PAL brings youth & law enforcement together today...to build safer communities tomorrow.

www.starpal.org

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