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FareStart's Catalyst Kitchens Named Winner of Social Impact Exchange's 2012 Business Plan Competition

Seattle (June 15, 2012) — FareStart announced today that its national effort, Catalyst Kitchens, has been named the winner of the Social Impact Exchange's annual Business Plan Competition. The competition identifies social sector initiatives with demonstrated impact and readiness to grow, and supports the winners with a financial award and pro-bono consulting services. FareStart will use the funds and services to grow its national network of member organizations—helping each to leverage FareStart's proven model of food service job training for the disadvantaged and collectively scale those efforts to have the greatest impact. The announcement was made at Social Impact Exchange's 2012 Symposium on Scaling Impact in New York, N.Y.

"We are deeply honored by this recognition and excited at what it will mean for not only FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens, but for all of our member organizations as well," said David Carleton, national director for FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens. "We are working together to expand our collective impact and turn the tide on poverty and hunger while helping those in need create opportunities for themselves. This brings us one step closer to that goal."

Since 1992, FareStart has empowered homeless and disadvantaged men, women and youth to transform their lives through culinary job training and employment in the food service industry. Over the past 20 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 6,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 5 million meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children. Currently, more than 80 percent of FareStart's graduates achieve employment within 90 days of graduation. Building upon a clear platform for positive outcomes, FareStart launched Catalyst Kitchens in 2011 to bring the success of FareStart to communities across the country. The organization's national network is already 32 members strong and includes Life's Kitchen (Boise, Idaho), Liberty's Kitchen (New Orleans, La.), Inspiration Corporation (Chicago, Ill.), and DC Central Kitchen (Washington, D.C.), among others.

Catalyst Kitchens was one of three finalists selected from among 100 organizations to present their business plan in front of expert judges and field leaders at the Symposium for Scaling Impact. Catalyst Kitchens works to replicate, strengthen, and scale foodservice social enterprise organizations that provide job and life skills training for individuals facing significant barriers to employment. The model has three key components; empowerment through comprehensive, applied training; sustainability through foodservice social enterprise; and nutritious meals for communities in need.

In 2011, Catalyst Kitchen's member programs across 18 states provided training to over 1,400 individuals facing significant barriers to employment—individuals who were homeless or on the verge, who had only limited formal

education, who had served time in prison or had no place to turn. Over 60 percent successfully completed the program and 86 percent of them have achieved a successful outcome, be it stable housing, further education and/or a living wage job. Together, these member organizations produced over 4.2 million low-cost, nutritious meals for their communities. Over the next four years, Catalyst Kitchens will launch 50 new programs, quadrupling annual training capacity to 6,000 individuals, with over 10 million nutritious meals produced and delivered to those in need, and over \$15 million in self-generated revenues, with all net proceeds being used to sustain the mission.

The competition involved three rounds of judging spread over eight months and focused on two tracks: Early-Stage Growth for new enterprises, and Mezzanine-Stage Growth for established organizations that have begun to implement their scaling plans. According to Social Impact Exchange, the goal of the competition is to help develop a strong pipeline of scale-ready initiatives and provide them with the resources to successfully take the next steps in their growth trajectory.

The Social Impact Exchange is a community of funders, practitioners, wealth advisors, intermediaries and researchers interested in developing practices for studying, implementing and funding large-scale expansions of top-performing nonprofit programs and organizations. The Exchange serves as a focal point and gathering place for those interested in collaborating to further build the field of scaling and to developing an efficient capital marketplace that provides reliable funding for scalable social solutions.

For more information about FareStart, visit www.farestart.org. To learn more about Catalyst Kitchens and the member network, visit www.catalystkitchens.org.

About FARESTART

FareStart provides a community that transforms lives by empowering homeless and disadvantaged men, women, and families to achieve self-sufficiency through life skills, job training and employment in the food service industry. Over the past 20 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 6,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 5 million meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children. Every day, men and women transform their lives in the adult program, which includes culinary training, life-skills classes, counseling, and assistance with housing, food, clothing and other support services to assist FareStart students as they change their lives. FareStart's Graduate Support Services program provides ongoing guidance to adult graduates, providing a full year (and sometimes longer) of support to help individuals move forward to self-sufficiency. FareStart, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, generates about one third of its annual operating revenue through business operations, such as Guest Chef Night at the FareStart Restaurant. For more information, visit www.farestart.org.

About CATALYST KITCHENS

In 2011, FareStart launched Catalyst Kitchens to help bring the success of FareStart to communities across the country. Catalyst Kitchens is a collaborative network of organizations with a shared vision to empower lives through job training, self-generate revenue through social enterprise, and nourish bodies and minds through quality foodservice. Catalyst Kitchen's national network is currently comprised of 32 members, including Life's Kitchen (Boise, Idaho), Liberty's Kitchen (New Orleans, La.), Inspiration Corporation (Chicago, Ill.), and DC Central Kitchen (Washington, D.C.). Over the next five years, Catalyst Kitchens will multiply the impact of foodservice job training and social enterprise by leveraging the experience of model members across the country. Catalyst Kitchens aims to launch 50 new programs, provide job training to 6,000 individuals, and serve more than 10 million nutritious meals. For more information, visit www.catalystkitchens.org.

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