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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN DIEGO FUTURES FOUNDATION LAUNCHES TECHNOLOGY-BASED
SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE IN CITY HEIGHTS**

The San Diego Futures Foundation (SDFF) is launching its first summer youth work experience program, the City Heights Technology Corps. Funded by the San Diego Workforce Partnership as part of “Hire –a-Youth,” SDFF will train and place 89 students to utilize technology in community service programs in the City Heights community. Government funded youth work experience programs were a summer staple for more than three decades but were written out of the federal budget ten years ago. The “Hire-a-Youth” program was revived as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to assist those most affected by the economic downturn, stimulate local economies and support the community. The county-wide program requires that youth meet federal low-income guidelines.

The City Heights Technology Corps is the first technology-focused “Hire-a-Youth” program in San Diego County. Participating youth are required to be enrolled in a technology program like the Academy of Information Technology at Hoover High School, and the City Heights Fab Lab. This will not only utilize youths’ technology skills, but continue to build them as they gain work experience. Youth will be placed at 14 non-profit and community sites and assist with such tasks as refurbishing computers, developing social networking campaigns for nonprofit organizations, e-waste recycling, tutoring elementary and middle school students and helping self-paced learners in computer labs.

City Heights Technology Corps participants will also receive financial literacy and community building training. For the majority of youth, this will be their first paid job. Financial literacy training, including information on earning, spending, saving and investing will help youth establish good financial

management habits. Youth will receive community building training since their work experiences are in community service settings. Community building training will introduce youth to community building theory and build skills in leadership, peer mentoring and goal setting. The community building movement promotes educational attainment and personal achievement in at-risk youth. The approach advocates for individuals to strive for success to improve their community, not to escape it. Community building training will empower youth to become engaged in positive change in their neighborhoods, schools and selves.

ABOUT SDFF

The San Diego Futures Foundation is San Diego's premier provider of technology to the nonprofit community. SDFF provides opportunities to use technology as a tool to enhance and change lives. Whether it's developing job skills, building confidence, enhancing life skills, increasing organizational capacity, improving communications, expanding access, or promoting community development, technology helps individuals and organizations achieve their goals. To that end, SDFF has donated more than 20,000 computers and 18,000 hours of technical support to San Diego nonprofits, community-based organizations, schools and families. For more information, log onto www.sdfutures.org/index.htm.

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