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## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES SEA-MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

**Washington, DC (February 22, 2010)** – The Social Enterprise Alliance, the largest membership organization for social entrepreneurs in North America, has selected its fifth local chapter. The SEA-Massachusetts Chapter will host learning and networking opportunities among social enterprises, foundations, lenders, educators and technical assistance providers in the Massachusetts region to help grow the number of organizations using business strategies to generate social and environmental value.

The SEA-Massachusetts Chapter will offer public programs three times per year about social enterprise topics, and will provide local SEA members with opportunities to connect with each other in person and online throughout the year. An event celebrating the launch of the new chapter is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the Microsoft New England Research & Development Center, One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA. Speakers will include Jerr Boschee, who is also one of the six people who co-founded the Alliance 12 years ago, and Herman B. “Dutch” Leonard, Professor of Public Management, Harvard Kennedy School (HKS); Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School (HBS); and Co-Chair of the HBS Social Enterprise Initiative. For more information about the event and to register, please go to <http://seamass1.eventbrite.com/>.

“The Massachusetts Chapter of the SEA will provide a forum for funders, lenders, investors, students, academics, professionals and consultants who see value in the application of market strategies to generate social value,” said Providers’ Council President and member of the Massachusetts Chapter organizing committee, Michael Weekes.

Growing in numbers, social enterprises harness the strength of marketplace practices with the values and objectives of the social sector to address some of society’s most pressing social problems. With the tightening of the economy and its ripple effects, today’s social enterprises are more important than ever to sustain vital human and employment services, youth development, environmental quality, and other public benefit programs.

Pine Street Inn, a nonprofit organization in Boston serving homeless and formerly homeless individuals, has operated a social enterprise called Abundant Table since 2000. Abundant Table prepares 3,000 meals each day – 2,000 to feed Pine Street’s guests and tenants, with the additional 1,000 contracted to Boston area organizations. Meals are prepared and delivered by staff and by students in Pine Street’s Food Services Training Program, with proceeds going back into the program to fund training and pay the student workers.

“Membership in the Social Enterprise Alliance has been invaluable in helping Pine Street Inn grow our Abundant Table social enterprise,” said Anne Wunderli, Director of Facilities & Social Enterprise at Pine Street Inn. “Membership benefits have included access to educational sessions, networking opportunities, and participation in the annual Summit. I’m delighted to see a local chapter of SEA develop here in Massachusetts.”

The Social Enterprise Alliance’s Summit, now in its 11th year, annually convenes more than 500 enterprising leaders for training on the nuts and bolts of planning and operating a social enterprise. *Summit 2010* will also be the host this year for the *3<sup>rd</sup> Social Enterprise World Forum*, and the joint event will take place in San Francisco April 28-30. SEA launched its chapter program in 2008 to provide peer networking and information exchange in local communities year-round.

“SEA chapters help to accelerate social innovation in communities and spur the emergence of a vibrant local support system for social enterprise,” says Social Enterprise Alliance Interim President and CEO Jerr Boschee. The other two SEA chapters are in San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis and Baltimore/Washington.



### About the Social Enterprise Alliance

The Social Enterprise Alliance (SEA) has emerged as the common ground for practitioners, lenders, investors, grantmakers, consultants, researchers and educators who recognize the increasing impact of social enterprise. In addition to hosting the annual Social Enterprise Summit, SEA provides its members with current information, tools, peer learning, education, and advocacy on behalf of the field of social enterprise. Visit SEA at [www.se-alliance.org](http://www.se-alliance.org).

### About the Microsoft New England Research & Development Center

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