



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL VISIONARY PRINCIPAL HONORED AT SWEET CHARITY EVENT

Washington, D.C. (June 21, 2010) – Wayne Ryan, principal of the Crosby S. Noyes Education Campus in Washington, DC was awarded the Principal of the Year Award at this year's Sweet Charity event; a local benefit co-hosted by Albert Uster Imports (AUI), a Swiss fine gourmet food company, and The Heart of America Foundation®, a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. that uniquely combines volunteerism and literacy to support children in need nationwide. Proceeds from Sweet Charity will go to help The Heart of America Foundation's Books From The Heart® program to provide books to children living in poverty in the D.C. metropolitan area who have few or no books of their own.

Ryan has been serving as the principal at Crosby S. Noyes since 2001 when he was personally asked to assume leadership of this school. At that time, it was designated a "transformational school" – one of the nine lowest performing schools in the nation's capital.

Under Ryan's leadership, the school has been completely transformed. In 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008, Noyes met all of its academic targets in Reading and Mathematics under *No Child Left Behind* law. In fact, in 2006, Noyes achieved a 24.9 % gain in reading scores and a 21.4% increase in mathematics.

Ryan has earned a reputation as a strong, visionary leader with an unapologetic focus on student achievement. He continues to believe that "the real victory is in the classroom" and he works hard to empower his staff, students and school community to become self reliant, critical thinkers. Because of his high standards and focus on exemplary instructional practices, he was selected by the DC Public Schools as a Model Principal for its national principal recruitment campaign.

The purpose of the Principal of the Year Award is to recognize an outstanding Washington, DC k-8 public school principal for their dedication, professionalism, and work on behalf of the city's youngest citizens.

About The Heart of America Foundation®

The Heart of America Foundation, a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, DC, uniquely combines volunteerism and literacy. The organization's focus is to provide children in need everywhere with the tools to read, succeed and make a difference. The Heart of America Foundation puts books into the hands of children who need them



the most while transforming school libraries in underserved communities into vital and vibrant centers of learning that become the heart of a school. Since 1997, the organization has provided children living in poverty with over 1.85 million library and take-home books, and engaged volunteers in more than 1,020,000 hours of service to the community.

About Albert Uster Imports, Inc.

Albert Uster Imports is an importer and distributor of over 1,000 high-quality ingredients, semi-finished and finished gourmet products. Predominantly known for its Swiss Des Alpes Chocolate (and all things sweet), the company branched into savory as well as frozen lines, becoming a well-rounded, fine gourmet food house that it is today. The wide range of services include: excellent customer service, recipe and menu development, a comprehensive website www.auswiss.com, an online store, newsletters, continuing culinary education classes and a database of over 500 recipe.

About Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C.

Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C. redefines luxury as Washington, D.C.'s most sophisticated hotel. Transitional in design, with stylish oriental flair, the hotel provides an unparalleled guest experience, with Mandarin Oriental's legendary reputation for award-winning service.

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