



SAN DIEGO NATIONAL BANK MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY WEEK WITH \$1.5 MILLION GIFT

Celebratory breakfast gives big to three local youth nonprofits on "San Diego National Bank Day"

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SAN DIEGO, Calif. (Nov. 16, 2006) -- San Diego National Bank (SDNB) today commemorated both its 25th anniversary and the bank's annual observation of National Philanthropy Week by making significant contributions to three San Diego regional nonprofit youth programs, totaling \$1.5 million.

The commemorative gifts were announced today by Robert Horsman, president and CEO of SDNB, during the bank's annual National Philanthropy Week celebration breakfast. Mayor Jerry Sanders attended the breakfast with a proclamation declaring this day officially "San Diego National Bank Day" along with City Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and County Supervisor Greg Cox, who had similar declarations for their districts. Also participating in the celebration was Jerry Coleman, long-time voice of the San Diego Padres and SDNB's official spokesperson.

The event took place outside of the bank's downtown headquarters, home of the Wyland "Whale Wall," a well-known landmark of the bank. Other guests included San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne, San Diego Fire Chief Tracy Jarman, as well as some of the bank's long-time customers, employees and board of directors.

Horsman presented checks of \$500,000 to executives of **STAR/PAL**, a non-profit organization that serves underprivileged youth throughout San Diego County; **Monarch Schools**, an accredited educational program for homeless and at-risk students between the ages of 7 and 18; and to the **NTC Foundation** for its NTC Promenade "School @ NTC" project.

“San Diego National Bank has long been committed to making San Diego a better place through our community involvement and charitable giving,” said Horsman. “The Bank is proud to assist these organizations in their efforts to educate San Diego’s next generation.”

The bank announced its gift to STAR/PAL at an event earlier this year. SDNB’s contribution launched STAR/PAL’s capital fundraising efforts to build a permanent home at Colina del Sol Park in San Diego’s City Heights neighborhood, one of the region’s most diverse and underserved communities. STAR/PAL significantly impacts the lives of youth through its programs and the positive relationships developed with mentoring volunteers. “SDNB’s gift will further the mission of STAR/PAL and allow for the expansion of existing programs, as well as new programs such as violence prevention, and financial literacy,” said STAR/PAL Executive Director, Chandani Flinn.

The bank’s contribution of \$500,000 to Monarch School will enable the organization to expand its efforts to provide healthcare, clothes and food, as a supplement to current enrichment programs. Monarch School was founded in 1988 and is operated through a partnership between the San Diego County Office of Education, which provides the accredited educational component, and the Monarch School Project, a nonprofit formed to raise money for the non-traditional needs of the students. All of the school’s students live below the poverty level – approximately 25 percent living in local shelters and another 30 percent living in single rooms, cars, or on the streets. “Education is the one great equalizer for homeless children,” said Sarita Fuentes, Monarch’s principal and CEO. “For every six months a child spends at Monarch, they progress more than a year academically.”

NTC Foundation’s *School @ NTC* project will provide “flagship” training for youth in visual and performing arts, science and history in conjunction with the 26 historic buildings that the foundation is restoring as a civic and cultural district on 28 acres of the former San Diego Naval Training Center. “With our first Resident Groups already moving into NTC Promenade’s Phase I renovated buildings this year, we have an opportunity now to begin creating a breadth of educational programs for San Diego school children, using our campus as an innovative extension of the classroom,” said Alan Ziter, executive director of the NTC Foundation.

San Diego National Bank is the largest community bank in the region with assets in excess of \$2.41 billion. The Bank operates 21 branches including Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Clairemont, Downtown San Diego, Encinitas, Escondido, Fletcher Hills, Golden Triangle, La

Jolla, Mira Mesa, Mission Valley, North Park, Oceanside, Pacific Beach, Point Loma, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho San Diego, San Marcos, San Ysidro, Southeastern San Diego and Vista.

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