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## News Release

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## Young Leaders Recognized

June 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, Gabriola Island, British Columbia – 23 young people were awarded Youth Leadership Diplomas and Volunteer Certificates at a ceremony held at The Haven on Gabriola Island's Wong and McKeen Phoenix Auditorium before the special show which marks the culmination of the Kids in the Spotlight program.

Diplomas were awarded to youth who had completed a multi-year program of intern workshops, volunteering, apprenticing and leadership at The Haven's programs for children, including Kids in the Spotlight, and Teens Alive. Since 1999, both programs have offered internship opportunities for teens, working with participants, while becoming responsible adults and able leaders.

*"I wanted a way to respond to the great desire of a lot of these youth to continue coming back year after year."* Says Denise Goldbeck, founder of the Kids in the Spotlight program. *"So I created, the youth intern program."* Integrated with the Teens Alive program, created by David Raithby and Linda Nicholls, the youth develop leadership skills, personal responsibility, communication, and the ability to lead groups.

There was also a special presentation of an honorary Diploma to Andrew Bing, who has donated more than half of the \$80,000 raised to support the program since 2007.

After the presentation of the Diplomas by The Haven's Director of Education Gwen Ewan, the audience was treated to a special performance by the Kids in the Spotlight group. With 4 days of preparation time, the intricate production was warmly received by more than 100 gathered family and friends.

Since 1983, The Haven has offered experiential programs for personal and professional growth and development, emphasizing self-responsibility, effective communication, healthy relationships, creative expression and integration of body-mind-spirit. Haven programs help people live their lives more fully and with deeper awareness of themselves and others. A not for profit charitable organization, The Haven is located on beautiful Gabriola Island, BC, Canada. The Haven offers programs for people of all ages, including Kids in the Spotlight and Teens Alive for kids and teens. Kids in the Spotlight provides an opportunity for children to learn and reflect on their own development, a topic which is only rarely covered in the school curriculum.

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