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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS**

***SAN FRANCISCO BASED YOUTH AGENCY  
HONORED BY NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH WITH  
AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD***

***Huckleberry was the first homeless shelter for children in the country.***

***Award to be received at National Symposium on January 26, 2010  
in Washington, D.C. During Awards Dinner at the Omni Shoreham Hotel***

Washington, D.C.—January 19, 2010—**National Network for Youth**, a national organization that has been championing the needs of runaway, homeless and other disconnected youth for 35 years, is proud to honor Huckleberry Youth Programs as it's "Agency of the Year."

"Huckleberry is an epitome of excellence in our field." Says National Network CEO and President, Victoria Wagner, "their scope, repeated flair for innovation and commitment are an inspiration."

Huckleberry Youth Programs offers a variety of services to homeless and disconnected youth in the San Francisco bay area. They run a 24 hour crisis hotline, mental health counseling services, teen health and STI prevention education services, a nationally recognized clinic, a health career academy, and many other worthy programs.

Huckleberry began as an innovator upon its foundation in 1967 when it was the nation's first youth homeless shelter. It has since expanded through new programs and partnerships with other agencies and community based organizations in the city. It is in the midst of planning a multi-service youth center in Haight Ashbury.

Huckleberry Youth Programs has been recognized as a leader in the field. In particular, it was chosen by the San Francisco city government as the lead agency in continuing and expanding the city's multi-service youth programming.

National Network for Youth celebrates the innovation and impact of Huckleberry Youth Programs at ***Symposium 2010: 35 Years of Helping Homeless Youth the American Dream*** on Tuesday evening, January 26, 2010, during a special dinner at the Omni Shoreham hotel. NN4Y will honor achievements on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, as well as acknowledge those members of Congress and the House who have made a significant impact on their work in the past year.

There are 2.5 million disconnected, unaccompanied and/or homeless youth in our country.

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