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Tanya Pinto Wins Award for “Uplifting Human Values”

DALLAS (March 7, 2007) – Tanya Pinto, founder of Baal Dan, a nonprofit organization that helps children in need, will be awarded the Sri-Sri Ravi Shankar Award for Uplifting Human Values. There will be a ceremony for the Dallas winners at the Art of Living Foundation’s (AOLF) Silver Jubilee on Wednesday, March 14 at 7 p.m., and a ceremony for national winners at the 25th Anniversary of AOLF in Washington, D.C. on March 28 at 7 p.m.

The award recognizes Dallas individuals and organizations that have uplifted human values and helped create a stress-free, violence-free community. Shankar founded the AOLF, an international nonprofit education, charitable and humanitarian organization that works with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. AOLF’s programs bring people together from all backgrounds and work to restore values, improve health and alleviate stress.

“As we began reviewing all the applications, Tanya’s stood out because she epitomizes many of the same philosophies and beliefs that AOLF and this Silver Jubilee espouse – that peace and tranquility come through service and individual growth occurs through service,” said Somes Mulukutla, Dallas Silver Jubilee Executive Committee. “She has learned at a very young age what it takes many a lifetime to learn.”

Baal Dan is based on the simple concept of raising money to help street children in places such as India, where American dollars go much further. Donations are used to buy items like food, clothing, medicines and books. Pinto, born in India, founded Baal Dan in April 2006, after taking a three-month sabbatical to India to volunteer at Mother Teresa’s orphanage, and home for the dying.

Pinto said that she loves working with the street children. "They are so bright, so happy and still so naughty, even though they have hardly anything," she said. "These children have taught me to be incredibly grateful for what I have, and my goal is to raise awareness of the fact that there are 18 million street children in India. I am honored to receive this award and educate people on ways they can help these kids."

About Baal Dan

In Hindi, Baal means Child. Dan means Donation. But, even though the name is Indian, Baal Dan was created to help children in need every country. Tanya Pinto, inspired by a quote from Mother Teresa, founded Baal Dan with one concept in mind: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Based on the simple concept of raising money to help street children, Baal Dan uses that money in places like India where American dollars go much further. The charity raises money to buy things that children can use immediately like food, clothing, medicines and books. Since 2006, when Baal Dan was founded, it has helped more than 1,500 children in India. In 2007, Baal Dan will expand to Africa. For more information, visit www.baaldan.com.

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