EARN and LEARN Program

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PRESS RELEASE - May 27, 2008

The **Earn and Learn Program** is pleased to make the following two announcements:

- 1. The program recently expanded into the South Huntington School District and is working toward adding Huntington School District in the fall.
- 2. Three of Earn and Learn's Farmingdale students will graduate in June and all three have been accepted to college.

The goal of Earn and Learn is to offer a work-incentive-mentoring program to help at-risk students improve their grades, school participation and ultimately, their self esteem – to build academic as well as life skills.

Jefry Rosmarin, the founder of Earn and Learn, stated "I am excited to be getting a return on my Earn and Learn investment, and there can be no greater dividend than to have three students who are graduating after many years in the program. Our expansion into additional school districts is a strong endorsement of the Earn and Learn model and our established track record and success working with at-risk students."

Rosmarin began the Earn and Learn Program in the Farmingdale schools in the spring of 2004. In Earn and Learn, each student is "hired" as an "employee" and commits to specific requirements as to schoolwork, behavior, attendance and bi-weekly meetings with an "employer/mentor." Failure to meet standards could lead to suspension without pay or termination from participating in the program.

Earn and Learn was first launched with four eighth graders from the Howitt Middle School. The school selected students who had significant academic and behavioral problems. In the initial months of 2004, two students, whose behavior and constant visits caused the 8th grade principal to say, "I was ready to move my office," had completely turned around, were doing well academically and were no longer exhibiting behavioral problems.

Since then, Earn and Learn has expanded to include one middle school group and two high school groups with a total of 18 students. To date, the program has proven to be remarkably effective and successful in motivating the students to change their behavior, improve academically and continue to receive their checks.

Earn and Learn has consistently defied the odds for its at-risk students with a success rate far in excess of the 10% that is predicted by knowledgeable professionals. It is at a crucial stage of its growth and needs volunteers as it expands into the South Huntington and Huntington school districts.

Earn and Learn is Rosmarin's second Long Island school-based initiative working with students. In 1992, he sponsored 46 Westbury fifth graders as part of an "I Have A Dream" ("IHAD") class. The IHAD program provided tutoring, mentoring and curriculum enrichment with the goal of having the students graduate from high school along with a commitment to pay for tuition for college or vocational school.

The Westbury IHAD class achieved a high school graduation rate of over 95 percent, far better than the rest of the senior class. Approximately 75 percent of the IHAD participants went on to receive scholarships from Rosmarin to attend college or vocational school.