

## Teaming up to help youngsters

*Dallas Morning News, The (TX) - September 29, 2010*

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- Edition: EDITION1
- Section: BUSINESS
- Page: D02
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A launch party for Promising Youth Alliance will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jet Linx, 7367 Cedar Springs Road.

The event marks a new collaboration of three of the nation's most successful youth development services providers: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas and Phoenix Houses of Texas.

McKinsey & Co.'s Dallas office donated its services to assess after-school programs nationwide and help craft a local strategy.

Promising Youth Alliance programs are designed to improve children's academic performance, character and leadership development, and overall health - all at lower cost per child. Other benefits are expected when additional organizations join the alliance. The programs are measured and assessed by the UT-Dallas' Institute for Urban Policy Research.

The three pilot schools participating in the after-school program are Tasby Middle School, Maple Lawn Elementary School and Williams Prep School, a charter school.

John Rodgers, Promising Youth Alliance president and CEO, and board chairman J. D. "Denny" Carreker will speak at the launch party. Also attending will be board members Charles Pierson, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters; Charles English, president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas; and Clyde Rush, senior vice president and regional director of Phoenix Houses of Texas.

The event will be catered by Food Glorious Food and include dancing, a free raffle for exotic vacation packages from Equity Estates and complimentary valet parking by Jack Boles Parking.

Currently, 84 percent of DISD students are economically disadvantaged, and more than 100,000 students in the community are unsupervised after school every day. Research shows that after-school care can significantly improve their lives and reduce crime.

Event sponsors are CommerceHouse, Ernst & Young, First Private Bank, Heritage Auction Galleries, Jet Linx, McKinsey & Co., Modern Luxury Dallas and William Noble Rare Jewels.

Contributions can be made to the Promising Youth Alliance Fund c/o The Dallas Foundation, 900 Jackson St, Suite 750, Dallas, Texas 75202, or by contacting Betty Brownlee at [bgbpya@yahoo.com](mailto:bgbpya@yahoo.com) or 214-621-7086.

Mi Escuelita dinner

Mi Escuelita Preschool will host its annual dinner Thursday at the Tower Club featuring Kyle Zimmer, president and co-founder of First Book, as the keynote speaker. Her charity has provided more than 70 million books to at-risk, low-income children.

The dinner will feature silent and live auctions.

Major sponsors are Bank of America, Estrada Hinojosa, Prime Lending, Avila's Restaurant, Azteca Enterprises, Brinker International, Interceramic and LALA USA.

For tickets (\$125) or tables of eight (\$800), call 214-526-0220 or visit [www.miescuelita.org](http://www.miescuelita.org).

Mi Escuelita teaches English to children from all cultures and prepares them for academic success.

- Record: 16074165
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