



## Using Art as the Engine for Social Change and Community Involvement

**For immediate release**

### **LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER TEAMS WITH INTERNATIONAL ARTIST TO DEVELOP UNIQUE JEWELRY**

*D.C. Children and Gary Rosenthal Collection Create Special Mother's Day Jewelry;  
As Kindred Spirit Set to Sell Gifts, Central Wholesalers to Donate Jewelry*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16, 2005** – A local youth center has teamed up with an internationally renowned artist and a local retailer to create one-of-a-kind jewelry in a socially responsible business/community collaboration.

The Latin American Youth Center is working with the Gary Rosenthal Collection and the Art as a Catalyst™ program this spring to create special pins, pendants and other jewelry made with the help of children in the nation's capital. The initiative has already gained the support of As Kindred Spirit and Central Wholesalers, Inc.

Several afternoons over the next two months leading up to Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8, 2005, children and mothers will gather with Gary Rosenthal at the Latin American Youth Center to create the glasswork featured on the jewelry. The glass will be "fired" and completed at Rosenthal's workshop in Kensington, Md. **A special mother-daughter tea and jewelry-making session will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. – one week prior to Mother's Day.**

Each piece of jewelry costs \$20 with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Latin American Youth Center and the Gary Rosenthal Foundation's Art as a Catalyst™ program. The Latin American Youth Center is looking to raise \$750,000 to convert a Columbia Heights building into four independent living units for teen mothers and their children. Currently, Washington, D.C. does not have a bilingual, bicultural teen mother's residential program.

The jewelry will be available through the Latin American Youth Center Web site ([www.layc-dc.org](http://www.layc-dc.org)) and through As Kindred Spirit retail stores with locations in Rockville, Md., Reagan National Airport and Pentagon Row (Arlington, Va.).

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“The Latin American Youth Center is excited to have this opportunity to work with Gary Rosenthal and the Art as a Catalyst™ program and create unique gifts for women in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area,” said Lori Kaplan, Executive Director, Latin American Youth Center. “It is also a great way for the children of the Latin American Youth Center to learn about the benefits of community service and gain a better understanding of giving back to their community.”

Said As Kindred Spirits owner Wendy Rukmini Walker: “As Kindred Spirit looks forward to serving as a vehicle for distributing these beautiful works of art. We have had employees and their children participate in the jewelry-making sessions and they have thoroughly enjoyed the creative aspects combined with the opportunity to help give back to the community. We look forward to a long relationship with the Latin American Youth Center and the Gary Rosenthal Collection.”

Gary Rosenthal said: “I have long believed that art can be a catalyst to build community and promote arts enrichment. We are optimistic that the local community and corporate partners will support this effort to raise the \$750,000 needed for Washington, D.C.’s first residential program for the District’s teen mothers.”

#### **A SPECIAL MOTHER’S DAY GIFT**

Central Wholesalers, Inc., one of the Washington, D.C. area’s largest distributors of plumbing, electrical, janitorial, hardware and building supplies, is making sure that this Mother’s Day season is special for 50 women in the Latin American Youth Center’s Columbia Heights neighborhood. Fifty pins will be given to mothers who otherwise might not get a Mother's Day present this year.

“Central Wholesalers is honored to be a part of this project with the Latin American Youth Center and the Gary Rosenthal Collection. For nearly 25 years, we have been giving back to the community. We hope that this program helps a few well-deserving mothers enjoy their special day,” said Richard Barron, Executive Vice President, Central Wholesalers, Inc.

#### **About the Latin American Youth Center**

The Latin American Youth Center ([www.layc-dc.org](http://www.layc-dc.org)) is a multicultural community based organization that supports youth and their families in their determination to live, work and study with dignity, hope and joy. It achieves its mission by providing comprehensive, multi-lingual and culturally sensitive programs, support and opportunities in education, employment, social services, advocacy and social enterprise.

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The LAYC seeks to help youth become successful and happy young adults by meeting them where they are and helping them build the skills they need to succeed. The LAYC's outcomes for youth and their families are educational success, healthy relationships, cultural identify, high self-esteem, financial independence, employability and civic engagement.

The Latin American Youth Center is part of the LAYC Family of Organizations which also includes the Next Step Public Charter School, the Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School, the Youthbuild Public Charter School, the Art and Media House, Ben & Jerry's PartnerShops at Eastern Market and Chevy Chase, D.C. and the Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers.

**About The Gary Rosenthal Collection and Art as a Catalyst™**

The Gary Rosenthal Collection ([www.collectgaryrosenthal.com](http://www.collectgaryrosenthal.com)) has been a leader in the American craft movement for nearly 30 years. By combining copper, brass and steel with brilliant fused glass, the collection has a contemporary style rooted in tradition. Work from the collection has been presented to Presidents from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush and can be found throughout the world in many fine galleries, private collections and in museum shops including the American Craft Museum, the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, the Corning Museum of Glass and The Jewish Museum.

The Art as a Catalyst™ ([www.artasacatalyst.org](http://www.artasacatalyst.org)) program practices a distinctive brand of social entrepreneurship designed, funded and implemented by The Gary Rosenthal Collection. Through the sale of our unique product line of gifts and awards, Art as a Catalyst™ generates funds for arts enrichment and education programs.

***\*\*\*\*Media Note: High resolution photographs of the jewelry and Latin American Youth Center youngsters making jewelry are available\*\*\*\****

**For more information:**

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