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The Irish Pub Children's Foundation, in Partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department, Announce Citywide Initiative to Create Positive Interactions Between the Community and Law-Enforcement

"Police Youth Alliance" Now in Seven Schools Throughout Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (Tuesday, November 15th, 2016) - The Irish Pub Children's Foundation, in partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department and Independence Mission Schools will hold a press conference on Thursday, November 17th at 10am at St. Martin de Porres School on 2300 West Lehigh Avenue in Philadelphia with Police Commissioner Richard Ross to announce a citywide initiative called the "Police Youth Alliance".

The goal of this initiative, which has the full support of the Philadelphia Police Department, is to foster positive interactions between kids in disadvantaged neighborhoods and the police patrolling the area.

The "Police Youth Alliance", which officially launched in 2015 by the Irish Pub Children's Foundation, was created in response to growing tensions nationally between the police officers and the communities they serve. The foundation is working with neighborhood schools and local police districts to create programs taught by police officers that have appeal to the students, such as art, music, chess and dance. It is a way to proactively change the dynamic between the police officers' interaction with children, who often come from communities that do not always share positive feelings towards law enforcement.

"A number of communities across this nation feel their relationships with police are tenuous," says Commissioner Ross. "Working with our community partners, such as the Irish Pub Children's Foundation, we are hoping to change the narrative. Our officers teaching students fun and interactive activities is a great way to start".

In partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department and Independence Mission Schools, the "Police Youth Alliance" began in 2015 with three pilot programs - two chess and one art/music program. In the Fall of 2016, the program has expanded

into seven schools and consists of six chess programs, five reading programs, one art/music program and one step dance program. The reading programs are being taught in the 1st and 2nd grade, while the other programs are open to 6th to 8th graders.

At the end of each program semester, the students and police officers will produce a culminating activity, such as a chess tournament, art show or dance performance and celebrate with their families, friends and other officers in the districts.

“The Irish Pub Children’s Foundation, which has a long-standing history of supporting law enforcement in the Greater Philadelphia region, decided to bring our resources together and think of ways we could help.”, says Mark O’Connor, co-owner of the Irish Pub and founding member of the Irish Pub Children’s Foundation. “We are thrilled to have the full endorsement from our city officials and hope the Police Youth Alliance will be a collaboration we support for years to come”.

For a full-list of schools and programs participating in the Police Youth Alliance, please visit <http://irishpub.donordrive.com/PoliceYouthAlliance>.

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About the Irish Pub Children’s Foundation

The Irish Pub Children’s Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that was founded by the owners of the Irish Pub. It was created in 2007 to better allocate and manage the funds raised from the Irish Pub's signature event, The Irish Pub Tour de Shore, established back in 1988. The Irish Pub Children’s Foundation is a 501(c)(3) independent non-profit committed to improving the lives in the community by supporting the families of first responders who are killed or severely injured in the line of duty, improving relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve, and encouraging children through education and recreation. In 2016, the Irish Pub Children’s Foundation raised over \$1,022,000.00.

About Independence Mission Schools

Independence Mission Schools is a Philadelphia non-profit providing a transformative Catholic education to elementary-age students of all faiths from low-income communities. Founded in 2012, the IMS network of 15 independent, tuition-assisted schools serves nearly 5,000 inner-city students, offering an affordable and innovative academic curriculum in the Catholic tradition of service to underserved communities. For more information about Independence Mission Schools visit www.independencemissionschools.org.