**2ND ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY LEADERS SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER BEST MINDS, BEST PRACTICES IN STRATEGIC GIVING   
Keynote Speaker will be Akhtar Badshah, Senior Director, Global Community Affairs at Microsoft**

February 25, 2013

LAS VEGAS – February 25, 2013 – As the philanthropic world gravitates toward more creative, effective models of charitable giving, the need for a forum to discuss best practices is this area is being answered right here in Southern Nevada.  
  
The 2nd Annual Philanthropy Leaders Summit will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, 7:30 am to Noon, at the Las Vegas City Hall, located at 495 South Main Street in downtown Las Vegas. It is an invitation-only event for grant-making foundations, corporate donors and individual philanthropists.  
  
The keynote speaker will be Akhtar Badshah, Senior Director, Citizenship & Public Affairs at Microsoft, where he administers the company’s global community investment and employee programs. Since 1983, Microsoft and its employees have provided over $4.6 billion in cash, services and software to nonprofits around the world. Badshah also manages the philanthropic elements of Microsoft’s YouthSpark, a global initiative that is designed to help youth into opportunities through training, employment and help starting their own ventures. Badshah is an architect by training and a doctoral graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the co-author of the book “Technology at the Margins – How IT Meets the Needs of the Emerging Markets,” published by Wiley and Sons.  
  
Additional speakers will include:  
  
• Gael Sylvia Pullen is a pioneering businesswoman, prolific speaker and ardent philanthropist. Her life’s goal is to empower and inspire all to see the good that is around us. As the Co-Founder and President of Better Communications, Inc., an international education program focused on increasing minority representation in the sciences, Gael Sylvia has facilitated partnerships with multi-national organizations. She is passionate about financial and health literacy, especially for women and girls. Among many other successful entrepreneurial ventures, she founded Sylvia Global Media, a digital broadcasting platform that serves as a sphere of influence for women and girls around the world, channeling quality, trustworthy content.  
  
• Anne Cowles is an active community volunteer, whose focus is education, economic development and health. She serves on the Executive Committees and boards of two start-up non-profits, the Empire Health Foundation (a hospital conversion foundation); and the Mobius Science Center/Mobius Children’s Museum. She also serves on the Washington Policy Center’s Eastern WA Advisory Committee. Previously, she served as an investment banker in New York and London with Credit Suisse First Boston; and as Bank Director and Economic Advisor with Washington Trust Bank.  
  
• Cree Zischke is a Regional Global Philanthropy Executive with JPMorgan Chase, where assists in the corporate goal to be a catalyst for positive and sustainable change in the highest need communities across the globe. Previously, Cree held senior positions with U.S. Bancorp, Patterson Companies, UnitedHealth Group and the State of Arizona Department of Corrections. She worked as a senior policy advisor to the Dept. of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement on immigration reform, focusing on healthcare, and civil detention of families, children and vulnerable populations. She is also a member of The Greater Good Council.  
  
• Tom Thomas serves as Director at Southwest Gas Corporation and is Managing Partner of Thomas & Mack Co., an investment management and commercial real estate development company with properties and developments in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Idaho. He is a member of one of Nevada’s most generous philanthropic families and he is actively involved in numerous charitable organizations including the Opportunity Village Foundation, the UNLV Foundation Advisory Board, the Las Vegas Rotary Club, and the Boy Scouts of America, Las Vegas Area Council, and The Greater Good Council.  
  
• Michael Brown is vice president of corporate affairs/North America at Barrick Gold Corporation, the world’s largest gold mining company. While a rural-based company, Barrick has a history of supporting Southern Nevada charities. In his role, he works to deepen the company’s engagement and provide policy support on the major issues confronting Nevada.  
  
• Caroline Ciocca is director of corporate citizenship for Cash America, Inc., a diversified New York Stock Exchange-listed company that supports over 50 non-profit organizations focusing on education, family wellness, military families, natural disasters and crime prevention.  
  
• Bjorn Berg founded Desert Reign Inc., a 501 (c) 3 organization addresses the growing problem of childhood obesity. He teaches seventh grade in the Clark County School District, and runs sports and nutrition camps for children.  
  
• Latoya Holman is director of projects and community outreach with the Las Vegas-based marketing communications firm R&R Partners and the R&R Partners Foundation. In this role, she manages the foundation’s “Flip the Script” anti-bullying campaign, which works to change behavior and build awareness among youth, parents, and educators.  
  
Philanthropy Leaders Summit is the brainchild of non-profit leader and strategic giving expert Julie Murray, president and CEO of Moonridge Group Philanthropy Advisors, a community development company that works with major donors to provide structure and purpose to their charitable visions.  
  
“Our goal is to bring together the best and brightest new thinking that exists about successful, outcome-based giving,” said Murray. “We want attendees to gain new tools to work with, a renewed feeling of optimism for our community and the desire to inspire others.”  
  
Murray’s background is well-suited to lead such a quest, having provided leadership to many of Las Vegas charitable institutions, including the Three Square Food Bank; the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy; the “I Have a Dream” Foundation; the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Foundation; and Harrah’s Entertainment (now the Caesar’s Foundation).  
  
Sponsors of the 2013 Philanthropy Leaders Summit are as follows: Bennett Family Foundation; Engelstad Family Foundation; Barrick; J.P. Morgan Chase; UNLV The Lincy Institute; Bank of America; Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Nevada Community Foundation; and R&R Partners Foundation.

For more information on Philanthropy Leaders Summit or Moonridge Group Philanthropy Advisors, please go to www.moonridgegroup.com or call Miles Dickson at (702) 580-6614.