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## SI DOCFEST 2009 AWARDS TO BE HELD IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE Top Films Will Share More Than \$20,000

*San Jose, CA; January 30, 2009* – The Second Annual Bay Area Social Issues Documentary Film Contest (SI DocFest) will hold its screenings and award ceremony at the Camera 12 Cinemas in downtown San Jose on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 2-6 pm.

The SI DocFest is not a traditional film festival, but rather a contest narrowly focused on high school students, the documentary genre, social issues, and the greater Bay Area community. Participants are asked to create a short documentary (8-12 minutes) profiling individuals or organizations that are making or have made a difference in the community through their work and dedication to social issues. At last year's event, close to \$25,000 was granted to participants.

Schools from all over the Bay Area showed a significant amount of interest in the SI DocFest in its second year, with around 100 registered teams at the start of the process. The teams that submitted completed films were judged by the organizing committee, which selected a group of 13 Semifinalists. These films are being evaluated by a team of independent judges, which will select and rank 6 Finalists.

The top three films will be announced at the awards ceremony, with first place receiving \$10,000, second place \$6,000 and third place \$4,000. Each award will be equally divided between non-profit organizations or individuals profiled or designated in the winning documentaries, the schools represented by the winning filmmakers and the filmmakers themselves in the form of cash scholarships. Cash awards will also be presented to the non-profits designated by the other three Finalists.

The 13 Semifinalists have already been posted on the SI DocFest website ([www.sidocfest.com](http://www.sidocfest.com)), and they cover topics that include poverty, education, domestic violence, special needs, war veterans and youth activism.

All Semifinalist films will be screened at the February 8<sup>th</sup> event. Six more films will receive Honorable Mentions and montages will show highlights of all films submitted. A reception at the theater complex will cap the evening. Tickets are available to the public via the Camera 12 Cinemas box office or online at [www.cameracinemas.com](http://www.cameracinemas.com).

The SI DocFest has been conceptualized and organized as a volunteer-based endeavor by Do Good Docs Corporation, a recently formed non-profit organization co-founded by San Jose residents Monica and Loreli Alba. Monica, 21, is a senior at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication, while Loreli, 18, is a freshman at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

Camera Cinemas, the leading independent movie theater company in the South Bay Area, is an official sponsor of the SI DocFest.

For more information please visit [www.sidocfest.com](http://www.sidocfest.com), which includes a tab with Press materials.

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*Do **Good** Docs Corporation is a new non-profit organization located in San Jose, California. Its first project is the sponsoring and organizing of the Bay Area Social Issues Documentary Film Contest (SI DocFest).*

*For over 30 years, the **Camera Cinemas** have presented a wide variety of well-made, intelligent films, from re-released classics to independents, international to mainstream. With three distinct locations – Camera 7 Cinemas, the state-of-the-art multiplex in Campbell's Pruneyard Shopping Center; Los Gatos Cinemas, in downtown Los Gatos, and Camera 12 Cinemas in downtown San Jose – Camera Cinemas has become an important institution in the local film community, making vital contributions to the cultural life of San Jose and representing the best of what the South Bay has to offer.*

### LIST OF SEMI-FINALIST FILMS SI DOCFEST 2009

ID	Filmmaker(s)	School	Film Name	Topic
A	<b>Justin Runes, Gabriel Mancini, Trevor Block</b>	Bellarmino College Prep	"Trabajo: The Search for a Job"	A look at the difficulties immigrant day laborers face when seeking employment, and how a Mountain View center assists them.
B	<b>Nate Earsley, Matt Neimy, Tom MacVicar</b>	Carmel HS	"Touching the Bellies, Hearts and Souls"	A profile of Nancy Costello, a 90-year old woman who has been delivering aid to the families of farm workers in the Salinas area for over 30 years.
C	<b>Patrick Maclan</b>	El Camino HS	"Mustard Seed"	A look at how the youth of St. Augustine's parish is affected positively through its youth group.
D	<b>Margaret Lewis</b>	Freestyle Academy (MV/LA HS)	"Jeremy"	A profile of Jeremy Teter, the first employee with Down Syndrome at the Mountain View Castro Starbucks, who is now an advocate of employment for the disabled.
E	<b>Alix Kaufman, Tanner Hanson</b>	Freestyle Academy (MV/LA HS)	"Not...Mime"	A look at a workshop in the arts offered to 90 at-risk youth, with the aim of steering them away from destructive lifestyles.
F	<b>Mahita Penke</b>	Mission San Jose HS	"Service Above Self: Interact 5170"	A look at an organization that promotes youth activism at the high school level, with more than 6,000 Bay Area students involved and with a worldwide reach.
G	<b>Hayley Foster, Rebekah Phillips</b>	Presentation HS	"Stopping the Cycle"	A look at the harsh issue of domestic violence against women and an organization that aids them and their families.
H	<b>Amy Schleicher</b>	San Ramon Valley HS	"Puppy Love"	A look at an organization founded in 1942 which has provided more than 10,000 companion dogs to blind people, to help them navigate everyday hazards.
I	<b>Amy Schleicher</b>	San Ramon Valley HS	"A Week To Remember"	A look at the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp, which for over 50 years has offered children with MD the joyful experience of camp.
J	<b>Chris Campbell, John Gifford, Wesley Kim</b>	Saratoga HS	"Sacred Heart: Welcome The Stranger"	A look at a downtown San Jose service organization that provides food, clothes and opportunities to low income families and the homeless.
K	<b>John Hurrell</b>	Saratoga HS	"Empowering Women, Eliminating Racism: The YWCA"	A look at how the YWCA helps a broad range of people through their programs to 'empower women and eliminate racism'.
L	<b>Alex Shebanow</b>	Saratoga HS	"BORP"	A look at the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, an organization that offers people with disabilities the opportunity to play sports.
M	<b>Dereck Hoekstra, Matt Ross, Ryan Scripps</b>	Valley Christian HS	"Scar"	A look at how wars have a powerful effect on those that fight them and their families, from the perspective of several local veterans of foreign wars.