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Open Books Ltd. Receives Social Enterprise Alliance's 2010 Innovation Award at World Summit

Chicago, IL – 4 May 2010 – In front of a record-setting audience of 800 attendees from around the world at its 11th Annual Summit/3rd Annual World Forum in San Francisco, the Social Enterprise Alliance presented 5 prestigious awards for superior achievement, visionary leadership and high-impact innovation in social enterprise. The 2010 winner for Innovation was Open Books Ltd. of Chicago.

“We believe Open Books has introduced a method of advancing its primary social mission through entrepreneurial strategies that are genuinely unique and effective,” said Jerr Boschee, Interim President and CEO of the Social Enterprise Alliance. “For those of us who have been in the field of social enterprise for decades, as I have been, it's wonderful to be surrounded by innovators like Open Books who are always breaking down paradigms and finding new routes to old destinations.”

A social enterprise is an organization or venture that achieves its primary social or environmental mission using business methods. Social enterprise includes both nonprofits and for-profits that operate businesses to address critical problems in many areas.

Open Books, founded in 2006, is a nonprofit social venture that operates an extraordinary bookstore, provides community programs, and mobilizes passionate volunteers to promote literacy in Chicago and beyond. The heart of its social enterprise is its 50,000+-volume store in River North which is filled with donated books whose sales go to support the organization's literacy programs and was dubbed “the most beautiful bookstore in Chicago” by the press.

“We could not be more delighted to receive this award,” said Stacy Ratner, founder and Executive Director at Open Books. “Being surrounded by hundreds of passionate social entrepreneurs dedicated to changing the world reminds us once again how essential literacy is for the future of the planet. Here in Chicago, we're working every day to enrich lives through reading, writing, and the innovative power of used books. It's an incredible privilege to be honored for our efforts and to get to share our story with the world.”

About Open Books

Open Books is a nonprofit social venture that operates a bookstore, provides community literacy programs, and mobilizes passionate volunteers to promote literacy in Chicago and beyond. Founded in 2006, the organization enriches lives through reading, writing, and the AWARD-WINNING power of used books. For more information, visit www.open-books.org.

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