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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kid Pan Alley Month at Maya

Dinner every Wednesday in March raises funds for Kid Pan Alley

Maya Restaurant

633 West Main Street

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Every **Wednesday in March, Maya Restaurant** in Charlottesville is donating 10% of dinner sales to **Kid Pan Alley**. Enjoy a great “made from scratch” meal prepared from fresh, local ingredients and help **Kid Pan Alley** bring songwriting workshops to **local children** at the same time.

Kid Pan Alley started with when Trapezoid’s **Paul Reisler** discovered—quite by accident—that children’s imaginations make kids the greatest songwriters. Songwriting is a way for kids to talk about some of the most important and complex personal and world issues. Paul Reisler’s goal in creating Kid Pan Alley was to reinvigorate creativity as a core value in education, one community at a time. Since 1999, Kid Pan Alley has created and performed 1,500 songs with some 25,000 elementary school children in communities across the U.S. These songs, which celebrate who we are and who we can be, changed the kids who wrote them, and now they inspire kids and adults all around the country to think and grow.

Over the past four years, Kid Pan Alley has helped more than 4,000 of our children write and perform 200 songs based on their ideas in 15 schools in our community: Broadus Wood, Brownsville, Burnley-Moran, Cale, Greene Primary, Greer, Jackson-Via, Johnson, Murray, Peabody School, Red Hill, Ruckersville, St. Anne's-Belfield Lower School, Tye River and Venable. Eighteen of 80 songs written in local schools during the 2007-08 were recorded on the professional album *I Used to Know the Names of All the Stars* by Sissy Spacek, Jesse Winchester, Cracker, John McCutcheon, Corey Harris, Shannon Worrell, Parachute, Sons of Bill, Terri Allard and many others. The album received a Washington Area Music Association WAMMIE for Best Children’s Music Recording.

Songs written by children in Kid Pan Alley residencies also are used in character development assembly programs that teach children about respect for themselves, their school and community, and the environment; trustworthiness and doing the right thing; fairness and caring, among other character aspects schools try to encourage in their students.

Funds raised through Maya’s generous support will help provide future songwriting residencies at local elementary schools. For more information, and to see photos and hear songs from recent residencies, please visit www.KidPanAlley.org. For more information about Maya, please visit <http://www.maya-restaurant.com/>.