



For Immediate Release

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Steward's Staff's New Board Emerging With Entrepreneurship, Passion.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 16, 2009 – The Steward's Staff is pleased to announce seven new board members, all under the age of forty, who have formed a new executive committee, excited to catapult the young organization emerging now with new vigor, entrepreneurship and passion.

The leadership of this unique nonprofit organization held their first board meeting, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Old National Bank, combining their resources to help the organization expand—empowering area youth in leadership development, community engagement and fostering positive self-esteem. In their first fiscal year, The Steward's Staff has served 110 youth, awarded three scholarships and escorted 50 youth on a college tour in Tennessee. Their youth also won a \$1,000 Youth Venture sponsored by Metro United Way.

“Our tag is ‘Leading by Being Led’ because we empower youth through peer mentoring. We’re teaching youth to become engaged with their school community and the community at-large in deep, impactful ways very early on, and we explain why that is important,” John Mark Eberhardt, the Executive Director, shares when asked how does The Steward's Staff help to prevent teen violence in the school system?

Since the organization began in May 2007, its primary leadership has been comprised of young professionals. Eberhardt explains, “We are the emerging, yet ‘now’ generation. We are the next leadership, so who else is better to mentor the future leadership of our communities,” as to why the organization is unique in its leadership structure. “Coming from a corporate background, in this sector, I often hear baby boomers say, ‘Who will take my place?’ I respond with, ‘We will if you just give us a chance to operate out of our innovation and passion.’”

Michael Denbow, the newly elected board chair and attorney for Stites & Harbison Attorneys reported, “I came on board because this organization is working to prevent self-destructive behavior youth resort to when they don’t realize they have alternatives. John Mark and adult advisors are preparing our high school youth with life skills through interpersonal and leadership development. These weekly lessons show kids they can process difficult situations and make the right decisions, instead of following their friends or responding out of fear.”