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Contact:

Steve Jevning  
Leonardo's Basement  
4301 Nicollet Ave S  
Minneapolis MN 55409  
Cell phone: 612.220.3171  
[stevej@leonardosbasement.org](mailto:stevej@leonardosbasement.org)  
[www.leonardosbasement.org](http://www.leonardosbasement.org)

Anne-Marie Hendrickson  
Compatible Technology International  
800 Transfer Road, Suite 6  
St. Paul MN 55114  
Work phone: 651.632.3912  
[anne-marie@compatibletechnology.org](mailto:anne-marie@compatibletechnology.org)  
[www.compatibletechnology.org](http://www.compatibletechnology.org)

## LEONARDO'S BASEMENT 10<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY BASH Two Local Nonprofits Team Up to Support Education, Fight Hunger

St. Paul, MN - October 24, 2008 - What happens when you take a boxing gym and add 720 ping-pong balls, four leaf blowers, a cake decorating contest, a movie produced by teens, and families building food grinders for people in developing countries? Answer: The Leonardo's Basement 10th Birthday Bash.

Leonardo's Basement is celebrating 10 years of inventing, building, exploring, sharing and learning with a non-traditional fundraising event that supports education at home and innovations for the poor overseas. Everyone is invited to join on Saturday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Uppercut Boxing Gym in northeast Minneapolis.

"We thought we better pull out all of the plugs on this one," said Steve Jevning, founder and executive director of Leonardo's Basement. "Our Board realized that this needed to be a family event and that the spirit of Leonardo's would not be appropriate for a fancy sit-down dinner in a carpeted event center."

The program will include a partnership with Compatible Technology International (CTI), a St. Paul-based nonprofit that designs and builds simple technologies like grinders and slicers to help farmers in developing countries process their crops. "We knew we had to build something at the party," said Kathy Bishop, longtime president of Leonardo's board. "We wanted to give a present to the community. CTI has been the perfect partner, and they will add special meaning to event."

In addition to appetizers donated by local restaurants, a cash bar, and live music, the celebration will include the ping-pong-ball-and-leaf-blower activity for children plus a short movie about the history of the organization, which began as an after school program at Barton Open School in south Minneapolis. The film was created by teens at Leonardo's Basement who worked all summer on the project.

A birthday celebration would not be complete without cake. In Leonardo's fashion, the party seeks inventive and crazy and tasty cakes. Professional chefs and amateur bakers are all invited to submit entries - parents, kids, teachers, book clubs, scout troops, artists, engineers and blacksmiths. Prizes will be awarded in categories showcasing lights and movement, noncake materials, color, and taste. There's also a category celebrating the best cake created by kids under age 16.

Tickets may be purchased online at the Leonardo's Basement Web site, [www.leonardosbasement.org](http://www.leonardosbasement.org), or by calling 612.824.4394. Individual tickets are \$25, household (immediate family) tickets are \$50, and guests can personally donate additional food grinders for \$250 each. Birthday cake contest information is also available on the web site.

Located in Minneapolis's Kingfield Neighborhood, Leonardo's Basement is a design-and-build program that intentionally mixes the disciplines of art, science, and technology to encourage creative problem solving. More than 2,000 children, teens, and adults build and invent at the Leonardo's workshop on Nicollet Avenue and in schools, parks, and community centers throughout the Twin Cities each year.

Compatible Technology International works to improve the lives of people in developing countries by designing food and water technologies that are sustainable and appropriate to local cultures and by collaborating with in-country organizations to identify needs and to achieve widespread use of technologies to relieve hunger and poverty. For more information visit [www.CompatibleTechnology.org](http://www.CompatibleTechnology.org).

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