



Contact:

Joni Godlove
Marketing + Communications Director
813.222.3044 | 786.205.3681 cell
jgodlove@digitalhands.com

**DIGITAL HANDS “YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM”
INTRODUCES YOUTH TO OPPORTUNITIES IN BUSINESS OWNERSHIP**

TAMPA — Digital Hands kicks off its annual business education program for school-aged kids on August 14, 2009. The curriculum teaches enterprising youth the basics of entrepreneurship, including how to write a business plan, how to project a budget, how to market goods and services, and how to scope out the competition. The program also gives kids strategies for today’s business world— including how to use social and online networking to advance your business—and encourages them to consider business ownership.

Digital Hands is a 100% U.S.-based technical support outsourcer that has earned national and local recognition for excellence in technical support. Each summer, Digital Hands hosts Young Entrepreneur Day, a three-hour sales event and post-event celebration.

“On August 14th all of our 2009 ‘Futurepreneurs’ will have the opportunity to gain real-world experience when they set up individual store fronts in our downtown Tampa headquarters and sell their products and services directly to our Digital Hands employees and to each other,” said Charlotte Baker, CEO and co-Founder of Digital Hands.

Last year’s offerings included homemade chili and lasagna that was available on the spot or pre-ordered in convenient take-out trays, baked goods, handmade paper flower arrangements in decorative vases, and resourceful wallets made completely out of silver duct tape.

“I learned how to make a knife holder and a belt out of duct tape at Boy Scouts,” said Michael Sikoryak, age 13, “but I needed a wallet, so I kept trying to make one. I just thought it would be something others would like too,” he said.

“Our family-oriented culture and commitment to igniting American ingenuity are some of the same principles we hope to instill in future business leaders,” said Baker, who originally thought of the idea four years ago when her young children casually asked her what she did all day. “Since that time we’ve been inviting other children to participate, adding a healthy dose of competition to the equation and creating a more authentic and robust experience for everyone,” she said.

Preparations for the annual event give the Digital Hands staff an opportunity to mentor children in their areas of expertise. Each child receives a kit with tips on naming their business, taking pre-orders, and

making and distributing marketing materials prior to the event. The Young Entrepreneur Start-Up Kit includes cost analysis worksheets that help young business owners to think critically about expenditures.

“We encourage kids to think about what kinds of things will appeal to working adults in an office environment,” said Joni Godlove, marketing and communications director for Digital Hands. “This year we’ve introduced an award program that invites participants to submit their business plan for a chance to win a trophy and the title of Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2009.

The competition is heating up, one participant, Destiny Scott, age 9, has established a marketing Web site for the event. (Check out <http://www.ydrshop.com>).

Digital Hands is already working on plans to expand the event beyond its walls in the year ahead. Baker envisions a community-wide program that includes an incentive for children to invest some of their earnings and also a component that will match contributions that the young entrepreneurs give to a non-profit organization in the Tampa Bay community.

“We have a lot of ideas on how to enrich the program in the years to come,” said Baker, “I can imagine these kids will gain enough experience to become coaches and mentors for the younger ones in the future, it’s a relevant and positive experience at any age,” she said.

View highlights from The Digital Hands Young Entrepreneur Day, 2008.

<http://www.digitalhands.com/bizkidz/player.html>

Video, audio, and photo opportunities with participants are available. Please contact jgodlove@digitalhands.com .

About Digital Hands

Digital Hands is a global, outsourced IT provider that specializes in call center help desk support, monitoring and management of critical IT infrastructure, and custom solution design. Digital Hands serves businesses by facilitating rapid adoption of new technologies and special projects implementation. With industry-leading performance statistics for problem response, problem resolution, and customer satisfaction, Digital Hands is the go-to, North America-based IT services provider. For more information, please visit www.digitalhands.com

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