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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TASTE Test NYC's Best

*Grand Street Settlement's 8th Annual TASTE OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE®
to Feature Tastings from NYC's Hottest Downtown Restaurants*

*-- April 17 event serves great food AND supports a **grand** organization --*

NEW YORK, April, 2008 — NYC's Lower East Side has become a food hub with an array of treats to eat – and these fine foods will tempt the palate of hundreds of hungry New Yorkers at Grand Street Settlement's 8th Annual TASTE OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE. On April 17, crowds eager to feast on a variety of foods and support a great cause will gather to enjoy tastings of signature dishes from more than 35 of downtown's best restaurants.

TASTE, created and organized each year by Grand Street Settlement as a primary fundraising event, will be held on **Thursday, April 17, 2008** from **7:00 to 11:00** pm at **The Puck Building**, 293 Lafayette Street (at Houston Street). For the fifth consecutive year, Ford Motor Company will be the lead sponsor.

"The Lower East Side is home to some of New York's top restaurants and every spring they come together to raise money for Grand Street Settlement," says Alex Gardner, a Grand Street Settlement board member and a co-founder, with his sister Julie Gardner-Koster, of the agency's group mentoring program J.U.M.P.! (Juniors Undertaking Manhattan Pleasures). "The restaurants and chefs make the extraordinary effort of preparing their signature dishes for TASTE. They are committed to this event because they know this community will continue to thrive if the young people who participate in the Settlement's after school programs are given the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to build a successful future."

Since 1992, J.U.M.P.! has matched young professionals with inner-city youth who participate in after-school programs at Grand Street Settlement. The J.U.M.P.! volunteers plan monthly trips throughout the metropolitan area which provide these at-risk youth with recreational and cultural experiences that expand horizons, foster curiosity and imagination, and promote intergenerational communication. TASTE OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE began in 2001 when J.U.M.P.! volunteers rallied the Lower East Side restaurant community to help raise needed funds to support programs at Grand Street Settlement.

Revenue raised from the event funds J.U.M.P.! program activities and also provides needed resources for other Grand Street Settlement programs that benefit youth and families throughout New York City. Every year, the agency's comprehensive array of culturally relevant programs and services assist more than 10,000 individuals of all ages

-more-

from toddlers in Early Head Start and Day Care to school-age youth, young adults, and senior citizens.

“In an ever changing economic, political, and cultural landscape, one constant has been the caliber of Grand Street Settlement’s programs,” says Catherine Gellert, President of the Settlement’s Board of Directors. “Watching TASTE grow larger each year is exciting because it means that so many people recognize the need for the Settlement’s unique range of programming. On a night where we honor volunteerism, we are reminded that the things that unite us are greater than our differences. So as we toast the J.U.M.P.! volunteers, all the staff of the Settlement, and my fellow directors, let’s celebrate the wonderful things we can do by working together.”

Restaurants from the Lower East Side, East Village and Nolita – some of NYC’s most exciting culinary neighborhoods - will take part in the event, which last year drew more than 1,000 guests, and raised over \$400,000. The evening will also include a silent auction and a raffle drawing for a Sub-Zero wine storage unit.

Additional information:

Restaurants confirmed to date include: *Alias, Allen & Delancey, Bacaro, barrio chino, Belcourt, Clinton St. Baking Co. & Restaurant, El Maguey y La Tuna, Falai Panetteria, Freemans, Gemma, How Sweet It Is, il laboratorio del gelato, 'inoteca, Kampuchea Restaurant, The Kitchen Club & Chibi's Bar, Kuma Inn, Little Giant, Loreley Restaurant & Biergarten, Mercadito, Oliva, Palà, Paladar, Prune, Public, Rayuela, Rice, Roni-Sue's Chocolates, Satsko, Saxelby Cheesemongers, Schiller's, Seymour Burton, The Stanton Social, Suba, Sugar Sweet Sunshine, The Tasting Room Restaurant, Thor, Tre, Urban Lobster, Verlaine, Veselka, and wd-50.*

Beverage sponsors include: *Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Bombay Sapphire Gin, Brooklyn Brewery, Dewar's, Doc's Draft Hard Apple Cider, Dogfish Head Ale, Grey Goose, IZZE, Partida Tequila, and Samuel Adams.*

In addition to Ford Motor Company, sponsors include: *Barclays Capital, Infinite Possibilities Foundation, Karsch Capital, Michelle Gerson Interiors, Miller Tabak Roberts Securities, LLC, Mondadnock Construction, Inc., North Sound Capital, LLC, Skechers USA, The Signature Group, LLC, Whole Foods Market/Bowery, and Zagat Survey.*

Ticket prices for the event range from \$150 to \$500 and can be purchased online through www.ticketweb.com. For more information about TASTE, including sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.grandstreet.org/taste.

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About Grand Street Settlement

Grand Street Settlement expands opportunities for low-income families and individuals by providing culturally relevant services that support community-building, advocacy, self-determination and an enriched quality of life. Since its founding in 1916, Grand Street Settlement has offered a continuum of innovative programs ranging from early childhood and youth development to community support for adults and seniors.