



HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES' INNOVATIVE NEW BUSINESS VENTURE WILL CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMERLY GANG-AFFILIATED AND PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED MEN AND WOMEN

"Homeboy Recycling" creates unique pathways to fundraising for the non-profit while yielding environmentally-sustainable job opportunities for graduates of the Homeboy Industries' 18-month training program

LOS ANGELES, CA (February 15, 2017) Today, [Homeboy Industries](#)—the preeminent re-entry and gang rehabilitation program in the world— announced the expansion of its job training capabilities with the innovative purchase of [Isidore Electronics Recycling](#), a full service, certified B Corporation, based in Downtown Los Angeles. Homeboy Industries will relaunch Isidore Electronics Recycling as Homeboy Recycling powered by Isidore, a standalone business that will complement Homeboy Industries' portfolio of social enterprise businesses, which include Homeboy Bakery, Homegirl Café & Catering, and Homeboy Silkscreen & Embroidery.

By acquiring Isidore and rebranding the social enterprise as Homeboy Recycling Powered by Isidore, the non-profit will establish a new job creation stream that will support the organization's comprehensive, free rehabilitative services. This venture marks the first of its kind in the electronic waste industry where a for-profit entity is leveraged to both provide jobs and generate revenue for a not-for-profit organization.

"We're excited and pleased to have Isidore Electronics Recycling join our Homeboy family. At Homeboy Industries, we are always looking for unique, marketable, and sustainable employment opportunities for the men and women transforming their lives through our program. This acquisition is a logical next step for Homeboy Industries as we position the organization for the future," said Thomas Vozzo, CEO of Homeboy Industries. "We have admired the leadership of Isidore CEO and Founder Kabira Stokes in developing a socially innovative and environmentally sustainable approach to workforce re-entry. The way her team has actively recruited and trained formerly incarcerated staff, while steadily growing revenue, aligns directly with the work we've been doing for almost thirty years."

Funding for this innovative venture was made possible by a cadre of perceptive investors in the social justice space eager to support cutting-edge, sustainable business models that generate reliable cash flow, help the environment, and positively impact the lives of those most in need.

By entering a partnership with Isidore Electronics Recycling, Homeboy Industries takes advantage of the growing market for cyber secure, environmentally safe electronic waste recycling. In 2014, the e-waste market was estimated at \$8.4 billion in the United States alone, having grown at an annualized rate of 15.4% per year over the previous 5 years, according to IBIS World.

Kabira Stokes will lead Homeboy Recycling and will use her deep expertise in the e-waste industry to help secure enterprise clients for the new company. In 2011, Stokes founded Isidore Electronics Recycling as a social enterprise dedicated to making the process of recycling electronics easy, secure and accessible while creating employment opportunities for people who have successfully exited the criminal justice system. As a portfolio company of the [Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator \(LACI\)](#), Isidore has recycled over 2.2 million pounds of e-waste over the past five years by servicing clients spanning government agencies, financial institutions, media companies, waste haulers, health care systems, and other compliance-focused organizations.

“At Isidore, our work has always been motivated by our vision of building a world where our resources – both human and natural – are valued, not wasted. There are few organizations that reflect this commitment more than Homeboy Industries, which has spent nearly thirty years blazing the path for criminal justice reform and proving the importance of second chances,” said Kabira Stokes, founder of Isidore Electronic Recycling. “We are so grateful to everyone who has helped us get to where we are today and are very excited to grow our effective, scalable and sustainable electronics recycling model with the venerable team at Homeboy Industries.”

Homeboy Industries has maintained a long and robust commitment to driving environmentally sustainable approaches to re-entry and rehabilitation. Since 2008, Homeboy has trained more than 500 formerly incarcerated or gang-affiliated individuals in solar panel installation.

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ABOUT HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES

Homeboy Industries is the largest and preeminent gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Homeboy offers an “exit ramp” for those stuck in a cycle of violence and incarceration, helping them develop the strength and skills to transform their lives and become contributing members of society. The organization's holistic approach, with free services and programs, supports 10,000 men and women a year as they work to overcome their pasts, reimagine their futures, and break the intergenerational cycle of gang violence. Therapeutic and educational offerings (case management, counseling, and classes), practical services (e.g., tattoo removal, work readiness, and legal assistance), and job training-focused business (e.g., Homeboy Bakery, Homegirl Café, and Homeboy Silkscreen & Embroidery) provide healing alternatives to gang life, while creating more inclusive and healthier communities.

ABOUT ISIDORE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Isidore Electronics Recycling is a full service electronics recycler offering responsible e-waste recycling, secure data destruction, IT asset management, and repair services. Founded in 2011, Isidore has operated as a woman-led social enterprise, with the mission of employing men and women who face severe barriers to work, including those with a history of incarceration and/or substance abuse. As the only R2, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 and B-Corp certified in the region, Isidore is committed to the highest possible standards for the disposal of e-waste and for the destruction of sensitive data. Over the past 5 years, Isidore has employed 25 people facing barriers to work and recycled over 2.2 million pounds of electronics by servicing clients spanning government, financial institutions, media, waste haulers, health care systems, and other compliance-focused organizations.

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