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### **SonLight Power Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **Cincinnati Based Internationally-Recognized Renewable Energy Nonprofit Outreach Firm**

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**Released: February 18, 2012**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio, USA**

SonLight Power, Inc. (SLP), a Cincinnati-based renewable energy outreach firm recognized for its sustainable impact on communities worldwide, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a nonprofit at a special dinner ceremony on February 12, 2012. More than 200 people attended the event in which former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, Hugo Llorens, commemorated the evening as featured speaker.

The SonLight Power 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration took place at the Cincinnati Marriott North at Union Centre and venerated a decade of impact in some of the world's most underserved areas. SonLight Power improves the lives of children, families, and communities worldwide through sustainable solar-powered solutions. SonLight Power actively engages with the communities it serves, applying solar power and Christian principles to improve access to educational opportunities, wellness, economic development, skills training, and emergency preparedness – empowering others with faith, love, and a renewed sense of hope. Tens of thousands of lives have been impacted by SonLight Power since its inception in 2002.

In 2010, Ambassador Llorens recognized SLP's efforts with the Ambassador's Renewable Energy Award for outstanding promotion of renewable energy in Honduras. Based on SLP's demonstrated expertise, the U.S. Department of State entrusted SLP to design, build, and install a showcase solar power sub-system at Embassy Tegucigalpa. Completed in May 2011, this first-of-its-kind 2-kilowatt grid-tied system will cut the Embassy's carbon emissions by more than 1,000 pounds per year and is a model for visiting dignitaries.

In his remarks, Ambassador Llorens praised SonLight Power's management of the project for being "on time and on budget."

More recently, SonLight Power and its founder, Allen Rainey, were featured on Chuck Colson's nationally syndicated radio program, *BreakPoint*. Colson's January 3, 2012 program entitled, *Renewable Energy and the Poor – Stewardship in Action*, commended SonLight Power for effective stewardship of renewable energy solutions for the greater good.

For the first time, SonLight Power celebrated its anniversary with a new executive director. Rainey, founder and visionary of SonLight Power, has transitioned his executive director role to Kevin Sasson. The SLP Board of Trustees approved the transition plan in October.

This transition allows Rainey to focus on his new role as Director of Programs. He will oversee SLP's three outreach areas: mission trips, solar training, and solar consulting.

"No one is more excited than I am to have Kevin on board," says Rainey. "Now I get to do what I do best – plan and execute mission trips, design solar power systems, develop missionary partnerships, and educate others on the benefits and capabilities of solar power."

"Kevin's accomplishments in Honduras over the last four years on behalf of SonLight Power show his dedication, skills, and focus," says Rainey. "What he has accomplished since joining us here in the U.S. is amazing – leading our efforts to earn a major grant, cultivating partnerships, and building consensus around a strategic plan that will help SonLight Power grow sustainably into our second decade."



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Sasson is a Cincinnati native who has been associated with SonLight Power since 2004. In 2007, he left the comforts of his San Francisco Bay career to serve with SLP in Honduras. Since that time, Sasson has been an integral part of SLP's growth and increased visibility in Latin America. He recently returned to the Cincinnati area with his wife who was born and raised in Honduras.

To date, SLP's impact has targeted areas in Latin America and Africa with no supply of affordable electricity, which hinders the quality of medical care, obstructs education for children, and makes everyday life even more challenging for people in these areas. SonLight Power seeks partnerships with the people it serves. Using solar technology and a blend of in-country and U.S. volunteers, SonLight Power mission teams connect schools, medical clinics, orphanages, water wells, and churches to a 30-year supply of electricity. Practically speaking, this collaborative effort can be a game-changer for a village on the edge.

To promote sustainable outcomes and help people help themselves, SonLight Power has developed a scalable model for deploying solar power to communities off the electric grid. In Honduras, SLP has led an innovative, multilateral alliance with academia, the U.S. and host governments to steward limited resources to broaden access to energy and educate the next generation of solar experts. SLP's partner universities benefit from an enriched curriculum with real-world instructional opportunities beyond the classroom. A knowledge base of locally trained solar technology experts provides the foundation for renewable energy adoption with the aim of reducing dependency on costly foreign sources of energy, a long-term macro benefit for the Honduran government. SLP's public sector partners, most notably the Office of the First Lady of Honduras' Healthy Schools Program, provide essential in-country logistic support. In unison, this three-way alliance among SLP, academia, and government provides mutual benefits while maximizing impact and affordability.

In November 2011, Procter & Gamble (P&G) through The P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation awarded a major grant to SonLight Power to plant the same multilateral, sustainable development model in Mexico this year. This summer, SonLight Power will send a team to rural parts of Mexico to install solar power at six rural schools without access to affordable electricity.

SonLight Power represents much more than solar power. Because of physical access barriers, people in remote, off-grid areas grow up confined to their communities. They are often unaware of opportunities beyond the village, or they grow up believing those opportunities are beyond their grasp. Spiritually speaking, many lose hope.

By applying Christian fellowship and solar power in sustainable ways, SonLight Power empowers those it serves. SLP's presence at a village is a reminder that they are loved.

"SonLight Power has such a great story to tell," says Sasson. "It's a privileged responsibility to lead our global family of supporters. Those of us who have been around here a while know that SonLight Power represents faith, hope, and love. We're really in the faith, hope, and love business."

### **SonLight Power**

SonLight Power, Inc. (SLP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, improves the lives of children, families, and communities worldwide through sustainable solar-powered solutions that broaden access to educational opportunities, wellness, economic development, skills training, and emergency preparedness – empowering others with faith, love, and a renewed sense of hope. Established in 2002, SLP's impact has focused on schools, medical clinics, orphanages, water wells, and churches in Latin America (Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico) and Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya). More information at [www.SonLightPower.org](http://www.SonLightPower.org).

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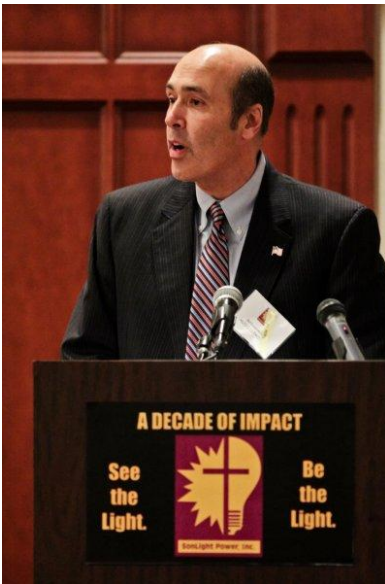
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**Note:** Higher resolution photo available upon request for publication purposes.

**Caption:** More than 200 people attended the SonLight Power 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner on February 12 at the Cincinnati Marriott North.



**Note:** Higher resolution photo available upon request for publication purposes.

**Caption:** Ambassador Hugo Llorens inspired the crowd with insights on the future of renewable energy.



**Note:** Higher resolution photo available upon request for publication purposes.

**Caption:** Allen Rainey, Founder and original Executive Director of SonLight Power, passes the leadership baton (a solar-powered flashlight) to the new Executive Director, Kevin Sasson.



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**Caption:** Aerial view of the showcase solar power sub-system designed, built, and installed by SonLight Power at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Completed in May 2011, this first-of-its-kind 2-kilowatt grid-tied system will cut the Embassy's carbon emissions by more than 1,000 pounds per year and is a model for visiting dignitaries.



**Caption:** Members of the SonLight Power team that installed the showcase solar power sub-system at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa take time to celebrate with coffee drinks made by espresso machines run on solar power.