



## NEWS RELEASE

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### OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMES NEW YOUTH-OPERATED AIRPORT CONCESSION

*HMSHost, Port of Oakland, and Youth Employment Partnership, Inc.  
Partner to Foster Oakland Students and Young Adults*

OAKLAND, CA – HMSHost Corporation, a world leader in travel dining and shopping, today announced the opening of a new youth-run gourmet coffee shop, **Training Grounds**, at Oakland International Airport's (OAK) Terminal 2. In partnership with the Port of Oakland, owner and operator of OAK, HMSHost will work with Youth Employment Partnership, Inc. (YEP) to help participating Oakland students and young adults develop job and vocational skills.

"Kids have a greater chance of success – and believing they are successful – when they are given responsibility," said Michele Clark, Executive Director of YEP. "By putting Training Grounds in the hands of local youth, we are empowering them to learn more, do more, and expect more from themselves."



Training Grounds in OAK's Terminal 2 Near Baggage Claim

As evidence of its commitment to the communities it is honored to serve, HMSHost designed, funded and built **Training Grounds** at a cost of more than \$298,000. Local HMSHost management will provide ongoing mentoring and support to the high school and young adult workers, including

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procurement services, scheduling guidance and management training. A second **Training Grounds** will open in OAK's Terminal 1 in 2008.

"At an airport, the world is your customer," said Steven J. Grossman, Director of Aviation for the Port of Oakland. "And when you are a teenager or young adult running an airport business in Oakland, you get to show the world what you can do and why we are proud to call Oakland home."

**Training Grounds** is the brainchild of the Oakland-based YEP, a non-profit organization that has been working with more than 30,000 Oakland teens and young adults, ages 14-24, since 1973. The Port of Oakland provided the space for these youth-operated enterprises and will manage the leases with YEP.

"Oakland International Airport is run by a community of people who make it their job to improve the travel experience every day," said Pat Banducci, Senior Vice President of Business Development for HMSHost. "Training Grounds will give local high school students and young adults a chance to play a greater role in their community, and their first opportunity to learn valuable job skills that will serve them into the future."

#### **About HMSHost**

HMSHost is world-renowned for creating customized shopping and dining spaces in travel venues. The innovative company operates in more than 100 airport locations around the globe, including 19 of the 20 busiest airports of North America. HMSHost has annual sales in excess of \$2.3 billion and employs more than 28,000 sales associates worldwide.

A part of Autogrill S.p.A, HMSHost and the rest of the Autogrill Group are recognized leaders in travel amenities. With sales exceeding €3.9 billion, Autogrill is present in 33 countries with more than 4,800 points of sale in more than 1,050 locations (including 163 airports and 689 motorways) where 51,000 employees serve over 840 million customers every year. Visit [www.HMSHost.com](http://www.HMSHost.com) for more information.

#### **About the Port of Oakland**

The Port of Oakland oversees the Oakland seaport, Oakland International Airport and 19 miles of waterfront. The Oakland seaport is the 4th busiest container port in the U.S.; Oakland International Airport offers more than 200 daily non-stop flights to 40 domestic and international destinations; and the Port's commercial real estate includes Jack London Square, Oakland's premier entertainment spot along the waterfront. The Port of Oakland was established in 1927 and is an independent department of the City of Oakland. Visit [www.portoakland.com](http://www.portoakland.com) for more information.

#### **About Youth Employment Partnership, Inc.**

The Youth Employment Partnership, Inc.(YEP) has provided employment training to Oakland youth since 1973. A one-stop center, YEP is a place for youth with comprehensive services designed specifically for them, including education programs, vocational training, mentoring, and support services. Visit [www.yep.org](http://www.yep.org) for more information.