



For Love of Children's 2007 Year-End Recognition Ceremony

Washington, DC (June 8, 2007) -- *For Love of Children's* impact on the community shone brightly on Friday when graduates of the Educational Guidance and Advocacy program, along with other students, tutors, and community partners were recognized for their individual and collective successes. *For Love of Children* (FLOC) served 560 students and worked with 275 volunteers and 20 partner groups throughout the course of the year.

LaTasha Harris, a former participant in FLOC's Fred Taylor Scholarship Fund and recent graduate of George Mason University, introduced FLOC's senior class of 2007. Just as Harris' ambitions were supported by FLOC, so too did 14 local high school graduates who plan on attending college in the fall have each of their hopes and dreams advanced by the efforts of FLOC's staff.

The high school graduates are: **Jasmine Baxter** (West Virginia University), **Brianna Bourne** (Morgan State University), **Rory Bush** (Garrett College), **James Chase** (Lincoln Tech), **Chanel Colbert** (Shaw University), **Benta Davis** (Bowling Green State University), **Katché Gore** (Shaw University), **Tony Harris** (Johnson C. Smith), **Leonice Joseph** (Bennett College), **Tiera King** (Virginia Commonwealth University), **Foday Pessima** (Kean University), **Daniel Streeter** (Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne), **Vanessa Canar** (Barry University) and **Victor Ware** (Corcoran College of Art and Design).

Each of FLOC's three year-long programs accorded Student of the Year awards to participants who showed demonstrated improvement and commitment to his or her program. The Neighborhood Tutoring Program (NTP) presented its award to **Alexis Jean**, Leaders in the Making (LITM) to Herani Bekele and Educational Advocacy and Guidance (EG&A) to Matthew Devonish.

The "Roll Away the Stone" awards were given to community and partner organizations and individuals that best embodied the ideas of **Fred Taylor**, For Love of Children's founding executive director. Mr. Taylor wrote about the many obstacles in the lives of disadvantaged youth in his book, *Roll Away the Stone*, and referenced the ancient parable of Lazarus who was entombed in death and resurrected. This is a story of courage and faith overcoming insurmountable odds, a story Mr. Taylor used to describe systemic barriers as the boulders that entomb our youth. Those persons that were recognized participated actively in the collective community to stand alongside those who face such barriers and helped them "roll away the stone."

The organization conferred the Volunteer of the Year Award upon **David Levine**, who just completed his seventh year of involvement with the Neighborhood Tutoring Program. FLOC bestowed the Family Member of the Year award upon **Ms. Judith Ware**, whose dedication to the Educational Guidance and Advocacy and Leaders in the Making programs went unmatched by any other stakeholder. Ms. Ware not only supported her own sons and granddaughters' educational growth in the programming but also referred students in need of SAT and ACT prep and shared the FLOC story with the broader community.

FLOC presented two other "Roll Away the Stone" to its partners. **Charles Town Middle School** (CTMS), the largest middle school in Jefferson County, was recognized as the West Virginia Partner of the Year. With over 900 students, the school was a prime candidate to partner with FLOC. The past year has seen an expansion of that partnership, as the school staff and guidance counselors allowed FLOC to pilot its Leaders in the Making Program in Jefferson County. After many months of planning and developing, this weekly after-school program has nearly 12 students participating every Wednesday.

Similarly, FLOC acknowledged **The Meltzer Group** as the D.C. Partner of the Year for its consistent efforts to contribute to the organization over the past 11 years. Over 11,000 students, families and volunteers have been positively impacted by the Meltzer Group's sustained contributions. The Meltzer Group has organized over 35 events and 1,750 volunteer hours, donated \$80,000 in financial contributions and provided two representatives that have and/or had a leadership role in the organization through participation on the board of directors.

Mr. Leon Harris, WJLA news anchor and FLOC board member, was the keynote speaker.

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For Love of Children is a Washington nonprofit that, since 1965, has been at the center of the movement that challenged the City's response to the needs of our most vulnerable children and families. Today, FLOC's mission is centered squarely on education. FLOC provides demonstrably effective out-of-school educational services targeted to children at risk for educational failure. FLOC programs include the *Neighborhood Tutoring Program*, which utilizes a proven back-to-basics curricula in reading and math; *Educational Advocacy and Guidance*, a program that provides counseling to support youth through post-secondary education; *Leaders in the Making*, a weekly after-school workshop for 10- to 14-year-old students that focuses on the environment, teamwork, leadership, community service, and reading and writing skills; and the 350-acre *Outdoor Education Center*, FLOC's wilderness site in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia where youth at-risk go for environmental science, experiential/challenge, and adventure education.