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YMCA BLACK ACHIEVERS ANNOUNCE ACHIEVERS OF THE YEAR

---Role Models Help Teens Grow Toward Their Professional and Educational Futures---

(MILWAUKEE) For distinguished service to Teen Achievers and the betterment of youth, the YMCA will recognize four adult Black Achiever Volunteers at this year's 27th Annual Black Achievers Scholarship and Awards Gala Friday, September 12, 2008 at the Pfister Hotel.

Maggie Beckley, Aurora Health Care ***2008 Adult Achiever of the Year***

The Adult Black Achiever of the Year Award is the highest honor extended to an adult volunteer. Chosen by his/her peers, this award recognizes the individual who best exemplifies the mission of the Black Achievers program and has served their class as a model of dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership. Maggie is the Black Achievers mission manifested into reality. As former teen in the Black Achievers Program, Maggie came to the program last year as an Adult Achiever eager to give back to the program which has given her so much. Maggie played an integral part on the Black College Tour Committee serving as the secretary for the committee and a Teen Advisor to at the Parklawn Branch. She served as a chaperone on the Annual Black College Tour. Maggie always has a great attitude about the task at hand no matter how big or small. She is willing to learn from her peers and other alumni of the program. Maggie's commitment comes from her servant leader spirit which is an invaluable gift to our program. On behalf of the Black Achievers program, we extend our gratitude to Maggie Beckley for her leadership and service to the teens and adults of our program.

Stephann Balthazar, Harley-Davidson Motor Company ***2008 Adult Achiever of the Year Runner-Up***

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Black Achievers Program is proud to honor Stephann Balthazar as the 2008 Adult Achiever of the Year Runner-Up. The Adult Achiever of the Year Runner Up is the person who receives the second highest number of votes for Achiever of the Year. This award recognizes the individual who exemplifies the mission of the Black Achievers program and has served their class as a model of dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership. Stephann served as a Teen Advisor at the Holton Branch and on the Career Clusters Committee. He serves as a good example for the teens of the program and his fellow classmates and in communication, commitment, and professionalism. Stephann was always willing to lend extra assistance and support when needed. On behalf of the YMCA of Black Achievers Program, we extend our gratitude to Stephann Balthazar for his leadership and service to the teens and adults of our program.

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Darnell Malone, State Farm Insurance

2008 Champion Achiever of the Year

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Black Achievers Program is proud to honor Darnell Malone as the 2008 Champion Achiever of the Year. The Champion Achiever of the Year Award recognizes the tireless efforts of the volunteer who contributed the highest number of hours in the class during the program year. Darnell is designated with this honor for dedicating 399 hours to the program this past year. Darnell served as a Teen Advisor at the West Suburban Branch and lead the itinerary subcommittee of the Black College Tour Committee. Darnell was always eager and willing to lend his technology expertise to help the program. Darnell traveled with the program as a chaperone on our Annual Black College Tour in March. Darnell has grown to love the students and truly believes in the mission of the Black Achievers Program. On behalf of the Black Achievers Program, we extend our gratitude to Darnell Malone for his leadership and service to the teens and adults of our program.

Arteniece Woods, State Farm Insurance

2008 Alumni Achiever of the Year

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Black Achievers Program is proud to honor Arteniece Woods as the 2008 Alumni Achiever of the Year. The Alumni Achiever of the Year Award recognizes the Adult Achiever Alumni volunteer who best exemplified the mission of the Black Achievers Program by their participation, quality of work, leadership with other volunteers, and support of students. Arteniece was a member of the 2006-2007 class and was named Alumni Achiever of the Year Runner-Up for 2007. This past year, Arteniece served as the Alumni Chairperson for the 2008 Black College Tour and again was a chaperone for the week long trip. Arteniece is passionate about influencing young minds. She has a strong desire to share her experiences and help make a positive impact on today's young adults. Arteniece is a very modest volunteer who never seeks the spotlight. She works hard to keep her commitments and produces high quality work at all times. On behalf of the Black Achievers program, we extend our gratitude to Arteniece Woods for her leadership and service to the teens and adults of our program.

We will honor them at the 27th Annual Black Achievers Scholarship & Awards Gala on September 12 at the Pfister. The gala serves to raise scholarship dollars for Teen Achievers who are attending college. For information on the YMCA Black Achievers program or Scholarship & Awards Gala, please call 414-374-9430 or visit www.ymcamke.org

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YMCA Black Achievers is a cooperative venture that marshals the resources of the home, the school, the corporate community and the YMCA to help youth set and attain high education and career goals. Since 1982, African-American professionals from the Milwaukee community have served as role models and have fostered personal, educational and professional growth among YMCA Teen Achievers at YMCA branches. Sponsored by their employers, the adult Black Achievers enjoy the social and career benefits of working within a thriving network of minority professionals, while serving their community and our youth.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee builds strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. Since 1858, Milwaukee YMCAs have helped kids and families live healthy lives in spirit, mind and body. Supported in part through contributions to the Strong Kids Campaign, the YMCA provides membership assistance and scholarships to programs like summer camp, child care, and teen activities, so that no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.