



## News Release

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### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE FORMS IN DC**

*New Teen Program Designed to Promote Enrichment Education*

December 12, 2006, – Washington, DC – Teen pregnancy, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide among youth are rampant in our society. These issues are not only harmful to our youth, but devastating to families and communities; and leave us to wonder the fate of our nation's future business and civic leadership.

The Youth Leadership Alliance, a newly established non-profit organization, announced its formation today serving the Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC regions. The launch of YLA's *Teen Check* program represents a new breed of teen enrichment education, committed to working with at-risk teens facing challenging obstacles in today's society.

Youth Leadership Alliance has developed an educational curriculum for teens designed to improve confidence and self-esteem. Through the *Teen Check* program, teens will learn how to avoid negative influences and navigate the challenges they face in school, at home, and on the streets. Additional program curricula are in development.

Even with the abundance of organizations that serve the teen population, teen violence, drug abuse, suicide and pregnancy continue to plague our society. "There is always room for new programs in support of teens and their families," says founder and CEO Davidra Bazemore. "We hope to collaborate with many of the existing organizations in an effort to build leadership skills among our nation's youth."

The first official executive meeting was held on November 3, 2006 in Washington, DC, where a formal association executive board was formed. The executive board members include chairperson and CEO Davidra Bazemore; vice-chairperson and executive director Tony Sidiropoulos; and executive board secretary Lola Ferguson. Additional board members will be announced at a later date.

The first task of the Youth Leadership Alliance will be to hold a special meeting with local government and business leaders in January 2007 to explore the best methods for making the program available to public schools, community centers and child advocacy agencies.

#### **About Youth Leadership Alliance**

Youth Leadership Alliance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative supported entirely through private donations and sponsorship support. Its mission is to provide education and resources to teen youth; enabling teens to navigate and cope with the complex issues they face in today's society. For more information, visit our web site at [www.youthleadershipalliance.org](http://www.youthleadershipalliance.org)