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**Future Foundation Receives Recognition From The White House For Its Youth Development Efforts In Georgia**

**East Point, GA – Dec. 5, 2008** --- The Future Foundation, a youth development organization founded in 2001 by former Atlanta Hawks player Shareef Abdur-Rahim, will join select non-profit organizations from around the country during a conference at the White House that will highlight successful capacity building efforts.

Abdur-Rahim's mission to improve the lives of more than 4,000 children in Metro Atlanta will be showcased as part of "Strengthening Compassion: Building the Capacity of Frontline Faith-Based and Community Organizations," from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the White House.

The conference is sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI). Future Foundation Executive Director Qadirah Abdur-Rahim will make a presentation about her organization's capacity building efforts, which include working with dozens of organizations in Metro Atlanta, to strengthen working relationships among community organizations through collaborative efforts, bolstering efforts to better serve the community.

"It is an honor that the Future Foundation's work to improve the lives of children in Metro Atlanta is getting national recognition," said Shareef Abdur-Rahim.

The Future Foundation is the only non-profit in Georgia selected to attend the FBCI conference. There are eight non-profit organizations, including the Future Foundation, invited to participate.

Strengthening Compassion will also feature presentations, research, and discussion of successful capacity-building efforts, and how non-profits can use these models going forward.

Topics to be discussed will include:

- Best practices in capacity building from the \$350 million Compassion Capitol Fund
- Effective structures for intermediary model capacity building partnerships
- Growing nonprofits' organizational capacity as part of service delivery projects

This isn't the first time that the Future Foundation has been officially recognized by the White House. In May, the Future Foundation entered an FBCI video contest open to non-profit organizations. It didn't win, but garnered recognition from the White House in the fall when it profiled Future Foundation student Monique Carter in an internal feature article.

**ABOUT THE FUTURE FOUNDATION**

Founded in 2001, the Future Foundation is a youth development organization in East Point founded by Atlanta native and former Atlanta Hawks player Shareef Abdur-Rahim. The Future Foundation offers free academic, physical, social and development programs to at-risk children ages 9 to 18 in South Fulton County. Shareef Abdur-Rahim retired in October as a forward for the Sacramento Kings and is now an assistant coach for the team.