

Media Advisory



BEST FRIENDS FOUNDATION THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT July 22 - 25, 2007

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel – Cotillion Ballroom
2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008



Contact: Mary Jo Joyce 202.276.6500

Adolescent Risk Behavior – Issues and Solutions

Photo/Interview Opportunities:

Monday, July 23, 11:30 AM – John Walters, Director of The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, will address youth from around the country during a keynote luncheon address: “The Current State of Adolescent Drug Use.”

Tuesday, July 24, 12:00 Noon – “Stop The Madness,” a panel discussion. Experts will discuss issues and solutions regarding adolescent risk behavior during luncheon. Panelists include The Honorable Robert Flores, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Dr. David Murray, Chief Scientist for Counter-Drug Technology Assessment Center, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Jose Dominguez, Director of Grants Administration, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation; Tyrone C. Parker, Co-founder and Executive Director of Alliance for Concerned Men; Beverly Watts Davis, Senior Advisor on Substance Abuse Policy, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and Seth Leibsohn, Producer of William Bennett’s “Morning In America” radio show. Best Friends Foundation Founder and President, Elayne Bennett, will serve as moderator.

Tuesday, July 24, 1:00 PM – Best Friends Foundation’s student musical production, “Make Music Not Madness,” with special guest appearance by acclaimed singer and actress Melba Moore, most recognized for making history as Luttiebelle in the Broadway production “Purlie,” and becoming the first Black actress to win a Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress. Join us for this community outreach performance created to promote positive choices through positive music!

NYLS 2007 - America’s Youth Converge on Our Nation’s Capitol for Leadership Summit Washington, DC – Youth and adult mentors from Washington, DC and across the nation will participate in the Best Friends Foundation’s third annual National Youth Leadership Summit – *Today’s Leaders, Tomorrow’s Future* at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, July 22-25, 2007. Over 150 youth leaders will participate in this national leadership summit to hear from presenters and engage in discussions that address the current state of youth. Each youth leader will gain a greater knowledge on how to avoid violence, drugs, alcohol and premarital sex, as well as listen to presentations on college / career prep and financial planning.

A recent study conducted by the Rand Corporation and published in the February 2007 edition of *Pediatrics* found that when youth are in environments rich in positive messages and activities lead by respected individuals and programs, they are less likely to exhibit negative behavior and more likely to show evidence of positive development.

Background

Best Friends Foundation programs promote positive relationships and the development of leadership skills. Founded in 1987, by Elayne Bennett, Best Friends Foundation currently serves 6,000 middle and high school students in 14 states and 23 DC Public Schools. For more information, please visit www.bestfriendsfoundation.org.

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