



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Omega Psi Phi and YMCA Camp Hanes to Send 200 At-Risk Youth  
for One Week of Residential Camp**

**WINSTON-SALEM, NC – August 1, 2008** – The national African-American fraternity Omega Psi Phi Sixth District will send 200 at-risk boys from North and South Carolina to YMCA Camp Hanes for one week of residential camp at no cost. The boys, ages 8-14, will learn different character development traits related to the theme of “Preparing Them for Tomorrow Through ‘Manhood’” during August 3-8, 2008.

Omega Psi Phi chooses to send boys who would not normally have the opportunity to attend camp. “Many of the boys have no father figure,” said Antonio Coor, Social Action Committee Chair. “We bring in our own counselors and first aid team so the boys can see men in those roles. The theme of the camp is ‘Preparing Them for Tomorrow Through ‘Manhood’” and we provide male mentors and role models.”

The week-long camp will involve educational activities regarding conflict resolution, teamwork and respecting selves and others. Since it is a YMCA camp, Camp Hanes emphasizes character development integrated with fun learning activities. The boys will also participate in swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, horseback riding, archery and many other activities. Campers will also climb the Alpine Tower and the Treetop Village, jump off the large inflatable “Blob” and enjoy water slides and zip lines.

Boys are chosen for the camp by individual Omega Psi Phi chapters. Chapters generally sponsor one child for every 10 members belonging to the chapter. Some funding will also be provided through the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina’s Partner With Youth, which provides scholarship funds for deserving youth, families and seniors.

“We’re excited to host Omega Psi Phi and these boys. We expect them to leave Camp Hanes with a deeper understanding of their own potential along with the life-long friends and memories that they’ve created here,” said Val Elliott, Director of Camp Hanes.

For more information on Omega Psi Phi’s visit to Camp Hanes, please contact Amy McNeil, Director of Communications at the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina, at a.mcneil@ymcanwnc.org or 336-777-6252. For more information about the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina and its many branches and services, please visit <http://www.ymcanwnc.org>.

**About YMCA of Northwest North Carolina**

When the first YMCA was established in 1844 in London, England, its mission was to promote positive Christian values as well as healthy behaviors and activities. Today, the YMCA movement has spread to more than 130 countries around the world, supporting and influencing the lives of millions of men, women and children of all backgrounds. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina association, a United Way agency, has been serving Winston-Salem and the surrounding areas since 1888. We have created a tradition of enhancing the lives of people in our community through an ever-growing list of programs and opportunities. We’re proud to serve the people of Northwest North Carolina by helping to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Our association currently serves more than 51,000 YMCA members and more than 100,000 people with our memberships and programs. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina has adopted Health Community 2015 initiatives to prepare youth and teens to succeed, strengthen and support families, develop caring communities and adopt healthy living habits. Learn more about the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina at <http://www.ymcanwnc.org>. ###

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Mission: Helping people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body.

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