



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Patti Austin, Wyclef, Sheila E., and NATURALLY 7 help Fight For Children Raise \$1 million for Kids in DC at School Night 2009**

**Washington, DC** [May 18, 2009] On Friday, May 15, **Fight For Children** hosted more than 700 business and education leaders and Washington VIPs, including US Education Secretary Arne Duncan, at its **2009 School Night** fundraising gala. The event at the Ronald Reagan Building raised \$1 million to support Fight For Children's work with DC public, charter, and independent schools.

School Night's Honorary Co-chairs were **Mayor Adrian Fenty** and **Michelle Fenty** and former **Mayor Anthony Williams** and **Diane Williams**. Fight For Children board member and Grammy award winning artist **Patti Austin** hosted and produced a fantastic evening of live entertainment featuring the musical talents of **Wyclef Jean**, **Shelia E** and **the E Family Project**, and **Naturally 7**. **The evening also included vibrant acts of talented youth in DC including The Saints from the Sitar Arts Center, Mini Shock of Culture Shock DC, and the Calvin Coolidge High School Drumline.**

During School Night, Fight For Children recognized the winners of the 2009 Quality Schools Initiative. **Capital City Public Charter School** won the Public Charter Schools award, **Bell Multicultural High School** took the Public School award, and **The Washington Middle School for Girls** won the award for independent schools. Each winning school was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Fight For Children on April 17, 2009.

The **Quality Schools Initiative** is an innovative awards program that encourages replication of high quality programs that improve student achievement among low-income children in public, charter, and independent schools throughout Washington, DC.

"The winners of this year's Quality Schools Initiative are terrific schools making great progress in educating low-income children here in Washington, DC," commented **Michela English, President and CEO** of Fight For Children. "These schools have worked long and hard to develop and implement innovative programs with one common goal – to provide a quality education and give kids solid opportunities for their futures."

Fight For Children is grateful to the many individual and corporate sponsors of School Night, including Terry & Kathleen Golden, Donald E. Graham, Joseph E. Robert, Jr., The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, CityBridge Foundation, GEICO, The Allbritton Foundation, Comcast, Mario Morino, Elizabeth and Michael Galvin, Qwest, Vicki and Roger Sant, Verizon, Building Hope, Capital One, PEPCO, Nemascolin Woodlands Resort, and Washington Life Magazine.

**Fight For Children**, founded in 1990 by business and civic leader Joseph E. Robert, Jr., is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing all children in the District of Columbia the tools they need to grow, learn, and succeed. Fight For Children has raised \$82 million in private contributions, investing these resources to create education, leadership and health care programs, as well as providing direct support to over 150 youth-serving organizations in the greater DC area. For more information on Fight For Children or any of its programs, visit [www.fightforchildren.org](http://www.fightforchildren.org).

**Contacts**

Jeff Travers  
Fight For Children  
202-772-0436  
[jeff.travers@fightforchildren.org](mailto:jeff.travers@fightforchildren.org)

Kristen Fagley  
Fight For Children  
202-772-0439  
[kristen.fagley@fightforchildren.org](mailto:kristen.fagley@fightforchildren.org)

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