



For Immediate Release

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Local Nonprofit Continues to Serve Communities After Philadelphia Safe and Sound Shut Down

Philadelphia, PA- April 29, 2008- Urban Family Council (UFC), a local nonprofit organization located in West Philadelphia, continues to expand and reach out to underserved youth after the unexpected cut of the Philadelphia Safe and Sound (PSS) funded Parent Truancy Officer (PTO) program in February, 2008.

UFC managed 50 PTOs starting in June, 2007, who visited the homes of students in the Northeast region of Philadelphia to educate their parents about the importance of attending school every day, and help bring a resolution to past absences. Although the program was cut short, UFC was not halted in their vision to move to a bigger facility in West Philadelphia in March, in order to penetrate deeper into the communities they serve.

“It’s a shame that many of the good programs provided for by PSS through the City of Philadelphia were defunded,” said Allen Kraus, UFC employee and former PTO assistant, “ but even in the midst of an unsteady economy and city cutbacks, UFC has been blessed to have more, not less, opportunities to make an impact in the communities we serve.”

PSS was questioned on the effectiveness of their programs, and whether those in most need of help were being served, while UFC takes on a proactive route to help as many students and their families as possible through dynamic, age-appropriate, character-based, leadership and health curriculum. By instilling youth with the importance of education at an early age, as well as giving them the skills they need to be positive role models in their communities, UFC helps keep students in school and off the streets. They were able to reach 15,000 students in the 2006-2007 school year.

HYPE (Helping Youth Prepare Effectively) is a successful summer program for students primarily in 8th and 9th grades who are struggling to move on to the next grade level. This camp helps further develop their character, maturity and vocational awareness through academic enrichment, the use of healthy relationship/social skills, and recreational activities. UFC will run three HYPE camps in Philadelphia, Chester, and Harrisburg for the summer of 2008.

Urban Family Council exists to build healthy families by providing education about, and advocating for, life, marriage, and family. UFC is an independent, donor-supported, non-profit community organization that provides educational services to children, adolescents and their families in public and private schools, community organizations, and churches. They will also host a number of workshops and programs at their new office at 4950 Parkside Avenue in the near future. For more information call (215) 879-2485, or visit www.urbanfamilycouncil.org.

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