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Giving Gifts that Keep on Giving

Leadership Donelson-Hermitage Class of 2008 Brings Tidings of a Trio of Altruistic Efforts

Nashville, TN (December 13, 2007) 'Tis the Season of gracious giving, and Leadership Donelson-Hermitage (LDH) is bringing holiday tidings of a trio of altruistic efforts. Three community-focused projects, creatively crafted by the LDH Class of 2008, will serve as community "gifts", thoughtfully given to enhance and elevate the dynamic Donelson-Hermitage (D-H) municipality.

The 2008 Class, which marks a dedicated decade of LDH leadership development, was subdivided into three teams: *DECA*, *Interdependence* and *Hands on Donelson-Hermitage*. As part of the involved criteria for LDH graduation, the Class was provided with both the challenge and opportunity to delve into community needs and desires, developing and directing to successful fruition, a philanthropic project poised to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of Donelson-Hermitage.

Team DECA, (the name *DECA* being a Greek numerical prefix denoting the LDH symbolic factor of 10), announces the launch of Project ICE (In **C**ase of **E**mergency), a community awareness campaign focused on improving access to crisis contact information for emergency personnel. Project ICE is designed to teach D-H citizens the importance of adding emergency contact information into personal cell phones. By entering the acronym ICE into the mobile's phone book, users can log the name and number of someone who should be contacted in the event of an emergency, should the victim be unable to relay personal information. DECA's campaign is aimed to increase ICE visibility through the first quarter of 2008, with the promotion's peak targeted for March through April, as the team partners with local police and fire departments, ambulance services, schools, churches and cell phone retail shops.

Team Interdependence has well laid plans to host a community forum, serving as an informational event and vehicle to discuss what makes the D-H and Old Hickory communities unique, vibrant and evolving. The forum, dubbed "*Town Hall 2008, Building Better Communities*", will be held in early spring and feature community leaders and local officials. Citizens who live, work and have a vested interest in the D-H and Old Hickory communities, are heartily encouraged to attend. The forum will serve as the perfect platform for the entire community to learn of, and become more actively involved in, important issues that affect D-H and Old Hickory, with the ultimate goal of providing a comprehensive view of a number of factors that impact the community and its future.

Team Hands on Donelson- Hermitage, desiring to leave a legacy to the D-H community, has undertaken the ambitious task of investigating the need and feasibility of a free clinic in the D-H area. The team has researched the specific medical needs in the community by defining space criteria and the appropriate location needed for the proposed clinic. Staffing needs have been identified as well as legal requirements for such a facility, with plans to draft a business plan in an effort to assist D-H community leaders in evaluating, and hopefully introducing, a free clinic to service those in the area that are unable to afford health care. “Having worked in the healthcare industry for many years, and more specifically in the D-H community with Summit Hospital, I can attest to the need to provide free health care to the community,” said Tom Ozburn, COO, Summit Medical Center and member of the Hands on Donelson-Hermitage project team. “We see and treat so many individuals who do not have insurance, and it is our duty to assist this segment of the population. Because a number of medical professionals have expressed their willingness to assist in this effort, this project should become a reality.”

Benevolence is boundless when it comes to LDH, and the Class of 2008, responsible for “standard” community projects as well, continues to gift the community through other additional avenues. Team DECA opted to *Adopt a Highway*, Team Interdependence embraced beautification preservation via *Greenway Adoption* and Team Hands on Donelson-Hermitage routinely erases the needs of Hermitage Elementary School students and teachers through a productive *Project PENCIL* partnership.

Since its inception in 1998, LDH was designed to groom and grow leaders, while simultaneously expanding altruism and volunteerism. Serving as a banner year for LDH, 2008 will also commemorate a significant ten-year milestone in the history of an institution which values visionaries who not only pilot, but propel efforts for an improved metropolis.

Always close, cognizant and connected to the community, LDH continues to live true to its mantra...***Developing Leaders for a Lifetime.***

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