



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE FUTURE of DONELSON-HERMITAGE is BRIGHT  
20 ASPIRING YOUNG LEADERS PREPARE TO EXCEL WITH “YELL”**

Nashville, TN (September 25, 2007) On the heels of heralding not only the Class of 2008, but also the kick-off commemoration of a dynamic decade of dedication and devotion to the Donelson-Hermitage community, Leadership Donelson-Hermitage (LDH) recently extended yet another altruistic arm. At an official retreat held on Monday September 17<sup>th</sup> at Donelson's Wilson Bank & Trust Cottage, LDH announced 20 promising teen leaders recently selected to participate in the LDH 2008 Youth Leadership Program aka *Youth Excelling in Learning Leadership* or “YELL”.

Originating in 2001, YELL mirrors the LDH program aimed at urban professionals, but focuses on the development of outstanding rising Juniors from the two High Schools that fall within the McGavock Cluster: Donelson Christian Academy (DCA) and McGavock High School. YELL participants are nominated, evaluated and selected by their respective teachers. Selectees are chosen based on their emerging leadership qualities, diversity and potential to positively impact the community.

The LDH YELL Committee, Chaired and Co-Chaired by LDH Class of 2006 graduates, Betsy Talley and Dennis Mitchell, has developed an all-encompassing agenda designed to enhance leadership skills, develop community awareness and inspire potential proponents of vital community issues via pivotal opportunities not normally experienced by teens. Throughout the year, YELL participants will partake in a variety of program days, with this year's program agenda including the following: Community Service Day, Wellness & Social Services Day, Diversity Day; Life Skills Day; Government Day, and Arts & Entertainment Day, culminating in a formal graduation. Additionally, YELL will partner with the LDH Class of 2008 for three program days and both schools will host a respective program day, with YELL program highlights to feature attending a Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce meeting and lunch in McGavock's renowned “Raider Bakery”.

**YELL's 2008 Class is comprised of the following students. From DCA:** Nick White; Tony Lemonis; Jon Wiggins; Lauren Terrell; Alex Renshaw; Macy Forrest; Sunny Allen; Hannah Sullivan; Peyton White; Kendall Hooper. **From McGavock:** Mauris Pointer; Sofia Yosuf; Carlos Johnson; Tonieka Barbour; Abbie Alexander; Isaac Wilson; Amy Stickel; Heather Finchum; Summer Cuning; Chelsea Coker.

Since its 1998 inception, LDH was designed to groom and grow leaders, while simultaneously expanding altruism and volunteerism. Always close, cognizant and connected to the community, LDH continues to live true to its mantra...**Developing Leaders for a Lifetime.**