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Barkley Evergreen & Partners

Local Organization Receives National Honor and Van Reward

Kansas City's Higher M-Pact is Community Spirit Honoree at 2006 Trumpet Awards, GM recognizes accomplishment with van donation

KANSAS CITY, Mo., (April 4, 2006) – Tyrone Flowers is loyal to a cause most people choose to ignore. His cause is helping high-risk urban youth, who turn to a life of crime and commonly end up in the juvenile justice system, turn their lives around. And now, he can do it in style.

The Flowers-founded organization, Higher M-Pact, was recently honored with the Community Spirit Award at the Trumpet Awards ceremony in Atlanta, Ga. The Trumpet Awards honor African-American contributions to society, and Higher M-Pact's dedication to helping high-risk urban youth earned the organization a top spot at this year's ceremony. Part of the organization's reward is receiving a brand-new, much needed van, courtesy of GM Goodwrench affiliated with General Motors Service and Parts Operations Division headquartered in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Higher M-Pact will unveil its new 15-passenger GMC Savana van, painted with the organization's colors and logo, in an outdoor ceremony on April 11, 11 a.m. at the Peachtree Restaurant, 1512 E. 18th St. in Kansas City, MO. Representatives of GM and Trumpet Awards creator Xernona Clayton will present the van to Higher M-Pact founder Tyrone Flowers. Several youth involved in the program will be on hand to cut the ribbon. Area GM dealers, along with Higher M-Pact's board of directors, also will be in attendance.

“Kansas City is blessed to have Tyrone Flowers as a member of the community, committed to helping high-risk youth who need a positive role model,” said Trumpet Awards founder Xernona Clayton. “His compassion and belief in positive change is having a tremendous affect on urban adolescents and this city as a whole. Higher M-Pact and Tyrone Flowers epitomize what our Community Spirit Award is all about.”

Flowers has devoted his life to troubled youth, many of whom would end up facing a life of crime and jail if it weren't for his intervention. He traveled to Atlanta in January to be a part of the national ceremony and accept the Community Spirit Award on behalf of his organization. There he was able to share his story with fellow honorees like Stevie Wonder, Usher and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Kansas City event is a chance for Flowers to share his award with the community that has been so supportive and thank GM Goodwrench for their generous gift.

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Higher M-Pact, cont.

About the Trumpet Awards

The Trumpet Awards, created by Xernona Clayton, recognize African Americans who have made significant contributions in fields such as civil rights, law, medicine and entertainment. The Trumpet Foundation gives a Community Spirit Award that entitles a charitable organization the benefit of receiving a GM van from GM Goodwrench. This year's recipient was Higher M-Pact of Kansas City, Mo. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was Stevie Wonder, who was joined by Aretha Franklin for an impromptu musical performance during the ceremony. Other honorees this year included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, musical star Usher, and actress Vivica Fox.

About Higher M-Pact

Higher M-Pact was established in 1993 by Kansas City native Tyrone Flowers. Committed to transforming today's high-risk urban youth into tomorrow's leaders, Higher M-Pact is one of the most innovative and effective non-profit youth outreach organizations in the country. The organization addresses the developmental needs of urban adolescents through intervention and intensive mentoring and conducts community outreach to share the message of hope and keys for personal development. Working to arm youth with the tools to turn living obstacles into opportunities for success, Higher M-Pact curbs the destructive behavior of urban youth and is the catalyst for change in the lives of many future leaders. For more information about Higher M-Pact, visit www.higherpact.org.

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