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**Washington Scholarship Fund to Honor 2008 Graduates and
Commemorate 15 Years of Local Service**
Washington Redskins' London Fletcher to deliver Keynote Address

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, May 29, 2008, the Washington Scholarship Fund will recognize the achievements of more than 220 8th and 12th grade scholars at WSF's annual Graduation Celebration, to be held at Washington, D.C.'s historic Lincoln Theatre. The event also commemorates WSF's ground-breaking 15 years of offering expanded educational opportunity to low-income District students and families. Washington Redskins star London Fletcher will deliver the keynote address.

"The scholarship program has really given me an extra opportunity for school choice," says scholarship parent Zubaidah Sudah, who has an 8th grade daughter, Aamira, graduating from Roots Activity Learning Center. "It has given me the freedom to find a school that works best for Aamira." Aamira was selected to speak at the graduation event and will be traveling to Ghana in June with her school.

Scholarship student Joshua Carter, a recent 12th grader who just graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School, will also be speaking at the event. "WSF's scholarships have afforded me the chance of a lifetime," says Joshua. "Coming from a low-performing school, I was blessed to get this opportunity to attend Carroll. The classes, the teachers, the activities – it's all been an amazing experience." In 2008, Joshua was recognized for his leadership by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, who asked him to serve as a Teen Ambassador. Joshua also has been given a \$5,000 college scholarship through the Charles Schwab Foundation, and he plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh as a freshman this coming fall.

Since the organization's founding in 1993, WSF has focused on increasing educational options for students in Kindergarten through grade 12 across all wards of the District, distributing over \$63.2 million dollars through its publicly- and privately-funded scholarship programs to more than 6,800 students attending local non-public schools of their choice.

This year alone, WSF is serving 2,300 students, who collectively are attending over 120 local non-public schools of their choice through both the Signature Scholarship Program and the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (the D.C. OSP). The D.C. OSP was established in 2004 as a bipartisan effort involving former Mayor Anthony A. Williams, former City Council member and Education Committee Chairman Kevin Chavous, former D.C. School Board President Peggy Cooper-Cafritz, the Bush Administration, Congress, and key community leaders. The program was part of a District education reform package that also included federal investments in D.C. Public Schools and public charter schools. During the 2007-2008 school year, the D.C. OSP has served over 1,900 students in nearly 60 participating schools in the District.

Earlier this year, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. City Council Chairman Vincent C. Gray asked Congress for continued funding of the D.C. OSP as part of a federal funding package designed to help improve education for all children in the District.

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