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**Contact: Jacqueline Harrington
Legacy Associates Foundation
313.300.0234**

**LEGACY ASSOCIATES FOUNDATION HOSTS ITS 9TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER
WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER HAROLD FORD, JR.**

DETROIT: February 9, 2007 - In its tradition of helping Detroit youth, Legacy Associates Foundation (LAF) will host its 9th Annual Scholarship Dinner to assist local high school students with money for their college education. The dinner, themed "*Seeds of Today...Trees of Tomorrow*", will take place at The Music Box in the Max M. Fisher Music Center located at 3711 Woodward Avenue in Detroit on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 6 p.m. with former Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. as the keynote speaker.

The LAF Scholarship Dinner, created to increase awareness in the community about LAF's year-round programs and achievements, helps the organization raise funds to support its youth focused initiatives. More than 300 constituents, friends and family members are expected to attend the dinner. The money raised will be used to financially assist deserving high school seniors attending a 4-year accredited institution of higher learning with scholarships that will be awarded during the summer of 2007. The members of LAF continuously serve as a support organization for students throughout their college tenure and beyond.

This year, LAF proudly welcomes Mr. Harold Ford, Jr. as the dinner's keynote speaker. Ford is the newly elected Chair of the Democratic Leadership Council and the 10th to hold the position since it's founding in 1985. Described by President Clinton as "the walking, living embodiment of where America ought to go in the 21st century," the former U. S. Representative Harold Ford, Jr. (D-Tennessee) has distinguished himself as a charismatic, results-oriented politician with fresh ideas and a pragmatic approach.

Additionally, Merrill Lynch recently announced that Harold Ford, Jr. will join the company as Vice Chairman and Senior Policy Advisor, effective March 5th. Exemplary of another step in Harold Ford's promising future, he will advise senior management on domestic policy issues, serve as a member of the firm's public policy and social responsibility management committee, and support a variety of business development initiatives in the institutional and retail markets.

Ford received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1996 and earned a bachelors degree in American history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. Among his many credentials, Ford is also a gifted speaker and accomplished writer. **Legacy Associates Foundation** and Harold Ford, Jr. truly share a vision for every child in America to receive a quality education that not only prepares them to compete, but to excel globally.

The Title Sponsor, a new level of sponsorship this year, will be Charter One Bank. Additional sponsors will also be the Skillman Foundation, Comerica Bank, State Farm Insurance, New Detroit Coalition, DTE Energy, Comcast Cable, HOUR Magazine and Michigan Citizen.

"The goal of **Legacy Associates Foundation** is to serve as strong, male mentors and leaders to youth while encouraging academic achievement, community involvement and economic empowerment," said Caleb Rutledge, newly elected President of Legacy Associates Foundation. "Harold Ford, Jr. epitomizes true leadership and we are excited about this opportunity for Detroit to experience his innate perspectives from both the private and public sector."

The cost of the scholarship dinner is \$75 per ticket and is open to the public. To purchase tickets, you can visit the Box Office of the Max M. Fisher Music Center or purchase tickets online at their website, located at www.detroitssymphony.org.

For any questions or concerns, you can reach Legacy Associates Foundation directly by calling 313.309.3230, via email at info@legacyassociates.org or visit www.legacyassociates.org.

Celebrating its 10th year anniversary, the Legacy Associates Foundation is an organization whose mission is to help students exemplify scholastic achievement, community involvement, and economic empowerment on a local, national, and global front. Since its establishment in 1997, L.A.F continues to improve the quality of life throughout their communities via promotion of and involvement in philanthropic activities. This strong example of leadership is an essential part in preparing individuals, minority youth in particular, to endure the many social and economical obstacles that confront them in our society.

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