

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL AT GARNET-PATTERSON WINS THE HOUSE, INCORPORATED'S "NO TEACHER LEFT BEHIND" AWARD**

**WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA - (AUGUST 15, 2009)** - The House Incorporated, Student Leadership Center's "No Teacher Left Behind" award for the 2009-2010 school year was announced and Shaw Middle School at Garnet-Patterson in Northwest Washington DC wins.

"This precedent-setting initiative provides the award winning campus resources to supplement and enhance classroom presentations and create a positive atmosphere for teachers, students, and their parents," announced Helen McCormick, president of The House.

McCormick favors the "No Child Left Behind" Federal program for education. However, an underfunded school functioning in an outdated building with inadequate supplies cannot avoid leaving children behind in the learning process. "Failure happens only when we stop trying to solve a problem," she said.

The House will take supplies and equipment valued at over \$10,000 to the teachers and administrators on Sunday, August 23, 2009.

Recalling her own career years as a public school teacher, McCormick cited times when the curriculum called for desk supplies or specific project tools parents could not afford and the school didn't provide. "That's when I dug deeper and purchased them myself. Most teachers do that," she continued. "They see a need and buy what's necessary from their own pockets."

While the general public may think teachers spend nine months in the classroom with three months off, nothing is farther from the truth. "Teachers often need second jobs during holiday breaks and summer dismissal in order to make ends meet and to buy little extras for their classroom," McCormick said. "Teachers at inner city schools need basic classroom supplies they try to provide themselves or simply teach without them. Often, students are the losers."

She also remembers making many sack lunches every school morning. Two were for her sons. "The rest were for students who would come to school hungry without a lunch. I believe you have to silence a stomach in order to teach a mind, so I filled that gap,

too.” And so do many other teachers on a daily basis.

The House, however, won't need to feed Shaw students. It will welcome its new staff teachers, many first or second year educators, by giving them grocery gift cards and frozen food items while they wait for their first paychecks in mid September. “The House pledges to help the teachers set up their classrooms and fill their storage cupboards with a wealth of supplies they can use during the school year,” McCormick said.

“No Teacher Left Behind” is not The House's first outreach program. Four years ago McCormick founded “A Cinderella Ball” gala prom night for middle and high school students with disabilities in the greater DC area. On June 1 the fourth annual Ball was presented by Willard InterContinental Hotel and reached into the special education classrooms of Washington's inner city schools.

***The House, Inc.***

*The House, Incorporated, A Student Leadership Center located at 14000 Crown Court, Suite 105, Woodbridge, Virginia, conducts before and after-school, summer day leadership programs, and weekend evening activities, and is founder of 'A Cinderella Ball' for disenfranchised middle and high school students in the greater Washington, DC area. For more information, please visit [www.thehouse-inc.com](http://www.thehouse-inc.com). Since opening in the fall of 2005, The House has had over 60,000 student visits.*

*SUCCESS Magazine featured President Helen McCormick and The House in November 2008, while CNN, The Washington Post, Washington Times, Fox, and ABC have also featured the work of The House.*

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