



## **The Good Samaritan Foundation**

*"Preparing Youth for Leadership in the Community and the Workplace"*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 6, 2003

Contact: Eugenia Mercer  
202-637-3580  
emercer@gsf-dc.org

### **Anacostia youth are off to Stanford and beyond**

WASHINGTON, DC – Derwin Fields, 18, is an academic achiever. Growing up in SE, Washington, DC, he excelled in school early according to his mother, Terri Fields-Smith. He started his education in Baltimore County schools before moving to Washington, where he attended Kramer Junior High and finally Anacostia Senior High. The transition was difficult. Moving from the suburbs to the inner city, Derwin's grades suffered and he made a few Ds in his first year of high school. Little did Derwin know that an opportunity would come his way, enabling him to be the valedictorian of his graduating class and on his way to Stanford University in the fall. Little did he know that The Good Samaritan Foundation would make a difference.

In the spring of 2000, Derwin was accepted into The Good Samaritan Foundation's (GSF) Student Training Opportunity Program (STOP), a community-based year-round youth development program. STOP provides after-school tutoring, mentoring, life-skills and work-readiness training, job placement, recreational and cultural enrichment opportunities, and scholarship assistance.

Derwin and 17 seniors from the program are graduating on June 8, 2003 from Anacostia Senior High School at 10 AM, at Crampton Auditorium on the campus of Howard University. Another member of GSF's senior class, Antajuan Wilson, who transferred from Anacostia, graduated in May from Oxon Hill Senior High in Prince Georges County, MD. Other highlights of The Good Samaritan Foundation's 2003 graduating class include:

- Of the 18 Anacostia graduating seniors, 31% are in the top twenty of their school's graduating class of 145 students, including two young men; Fields, who is valedictorian and Gary Stoddard, who is class salutatorian.
- Combined, the students have been awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships and grants from national and local organizations including the Horatio Alger Association, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation (MERF) Scholarship Program, the Bill Gates Millennium Scholars Program, the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Eighty-two percent of STOP's graduating class is going on to colleges and universities throughout the country including, North Carolina Central, Morehouse College, New York Institute of Technology, and Edward Waters College.

Founded in 1993 by former Washington Redskin greats, Art Monk, Charles Mann, Tim Johnson and Earnest Byner, the foundation has always been committed to youth. From 1993-1999, the program had a one-person staff and served 10-12 students during the year. Now, 62 students participate in a 42-week program, served by four full-time staff and 20-25 volunteers. In 2003, the program expanded its student recruitment efforts; and in the fall, GSF will serve students at IDEA and Enterprise Public Charter Schools in the District.

Indiaya Hallmon who will be attending Clark-Atlanta University in the fall, credits the program with helping her get over her shyness. "The different workshops that we participated in helped me feel comfortable speaking in public."

"The tutoring program helped me become a better student and helped me with my reading," said Robert Harris, who is off to North Carolina Central University. Before heading south, Harris and Stoddard are going to Ghana for two weeks to teach computer classes.

A grateful Derwin said, "The Good Samaritan Foundation helped keep me focused because the staff and volunteers cared about me and my classmates, and about what we do."

"This is our largest graduating class to date." said co-founder Charles Mann. "We are proud of their accomplishments and expect great things from them all in the future."

###

**About The Good Samaritan Foundation**

In 1993, former Washington Redskins, Art Monk, Charles Mann, Tim Johnson and Earnest Byner, combined their resources to create a philanthropic organization to serve the youth within the District of Columbia. Currently serving 62 high school students in Southeast, the foundation achieves its mission of “Preparing Youth for Leadership in the Community and the Workplace” through its year-round youth development program, the Student Training Opportunity Program (STOP). Presently the Foundation is raising funds for a Training and Outreach Center in Anacostia.

For information about The Good Samaritan Foundation, call (202) -637-3580 or visit [www.gsf-dc.org](http://www.gsf-dc.org)

*Editor's note: Interviews with and photos of graduating students from The Good Samaritan Foundation are available on request; contact our program director, Mr. Tracy Brower at 202-637-3580.*