

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### **AFRICAN-CANADIAN CHRISTIAN NETWORK ISSUES FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO HELP YOUTH LEAD PRODUCTIVE AND VIOLENCE FREE LIVES**

TORONTO —The African-Canadian Christian Network (ACCN) today issued its fourth Call for Proposals from Toronto churches and community organizations committed to helping young people lead productive and violent free lives.

With a \$3 million grant from the province, the ACCN and its financial trustee, the Toronto Community Foundation (TCF) have been able to fund 47 community projects that are assisting churches and their community partners to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver much needed programming to young people facing systemic barriers. ACCN provides funding for projects that focus on Family, Education, Employment and Crime Prevention.

“We want all our young people to be the best they can be,” said Minister of Children and Youth Services Deb Matthews. “That’s why we’re pleased to support the work of the African-Canadian Christian Network and its great commitment to giving youth, especially those who don’t have easy access to strong community supports, the opportunities they need to make positive choices and be successful.”

“The future of Toronto, and the quality of life for its citizens, depends on ensuring that the next generation is willing and able to lead” said Rahul Bhardwaj, President and CEO of the Foundation. He added “ACCN is successfully nurturing a network of leaders who are creating and implementing strength-based programs for youth. The Toronto Community Foundation is proud to be working with the ACCN and the Province of Ontario to invest in our City’s greatest asset – its people.”

“As a result of the ACCN funding we received in August 2007, we’re having tremendous success in connecting with youth in our community”, said Pastor Peter Youngren of Toronto International Celebration Church. “The number of teens currently in the Basket-ball 4 Life program is more than twice the number we expected. We are now able to run programs on two different sites and on three separate nights. We’ve partnered with the Toronto Police Services and together we’re expanding our outreach and making a difference in the lives of hundreds of Afro-Canadian males and their parents”, Pastor Youngren added.

“The reports and vignettes with testimonies are so very encouraging”, said ACCN board chair, Rev. Alvin Nicholson. “They reinforce the need for an organization like ACCN. We will be providing additional funding to help sustain some of these projects in addition to funding new initiatives in this final Call for Proposals. As with the last call, we are particularly interested in funding proposals that focus on the areas of Crime Prevention and Employment.”

The deadline for submitting proposals is February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Interested churches and organizations are invited to visit the ACCN’s website at [www.accntoronto.com](http://www.accntoronto.com) for more information and to download a grant application form.

ACCN will host Proposal Writing Workshops to assist church and community groups applying for grants on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Friendship Community Church at 1290 Finch Avenue West, Unit #19, North York, Ontario, M3J 3K3.

ACCN is a volunteer-driven organization and welcomes the support of people from various disciplines who would like to help make a difference in the lives of young people.

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