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Lamp of Learning

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Family Development, Inc. Celebrates  
 The Gifts and Talents of Our Youth

In testimony to the brilliance of Detroit students, the dedication of teachers, and the enthusiasm that only a spirited, challenging competition could bring, Black Family Development, Inc. held its “9<sup>th</sup> Annual African Centered Olympics” on March 4, 2010 at Wayne County Community College District’s Eastern Campus. Detroit City Councilman James Tate made opening remarks that inspired the audience of students, parents, educators and the community.

The 2010 African Centered Olympics first place School Champions are:

- *Osborn College Preparatory High School - High School Champion*
- *Hope Academy - Middle School Champion*
- *Malcolm X Academy - Elementary School Champion*

The students participating were challenged to master 420 facts about the contributions of African Americans in the areas of Business, Educators and Authors, Civil Rights, Government, Inventors and Science, Athletes, and Entertainment.

“The Olympics not only gave students a broader vision of their own possibilities, but also a greater understanding of their responsibility to self, family, and the community,” states Alice G. Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI).

More than 60 Detroit students represented: Fleming Academy, Malcolm X Academy, Ronald Brown Academy, Hope Academy, Nsoroma Institute, John Trix Elementary/Middle School, Plymouth Educational Center Preparatory High School, and Osborn College Preparatory High School. “This event highlighted the gifts and talents of our youth. Although we identified three school teams as first place champions, every student was a champion and received a medallion to acknowledge their achievements,” states Alice G. Thompson.

The cheers and support received from parents, community residents and school staff, including five school Principals, proved to be motivating and encouraging. The Olympic judges included: Victor Green, Director of Community Relations, Wayne State University; Rosemary Hagerman-McGhee, Licensed Social Worker, Detroit Public Schools; Ms. Jessie Martin-Ford, ACSW, Clinical Social Worker, The Mental Health Clinic, John P. Dingell VA Medical Center Detroit; Leslie Pittman, Youthville Detroit; Linda Vinson, Eastside Unity Association; and Donnell R. White, Deputy Executive Director, Detroit Branch NAACP.

BFDI will celebrate its “10<sup>th</sup> Annual African Centered Olympics” in March 2011. For more information on other Positive Youth Development activities, contact Theresa Bass at (313) 758-0150.

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