



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® AWARDS MORE THAN \$20,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS**

*McDonald's® Celebrates Black History Month by Spotlighting Young Achievers;  
Dr. Arlene Ackerman to be presented with the Black History Maker of Today Award*

PHILADELPHIA, February 18, 2009 – Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC®) and the McDonald's Owner/Operators of the Greater Philadelphia Region will recognize the accomplishments of 15 area high school seniors by awarding them RMHC/African American Future Achievers college scholarships. RMHC/Future Achievers is a local extension of a national program that recognizes African American high school seniors for their scholastic achievement, community service and financial need.

Now in its seventh year in the Philadelphia Region, the scholarship competition received nearly 150 applications. A panel of judges comprised of African American community leaders, and McDonald's and RMHC representatives selected the winners from Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware (winners list follows).

“McDonald's and Ronald McDonald House Charities are proud to support education initiatives in the Greater Philadelphia region and hope to inspire more students to pursue their dreams of attaining a higher level of education,” said Tanya Holliday, President of the Philadelphia Black McDonald's Owner/Operator Association.

The winning students will be recognized at the **RMHC/Future Achievers Awards Celebration, being held on Tuesday, February 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hilton on City Ave. in Philadelphia.**

The event will feature a keynote address by Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia **Dr. Arlene Ackerman**, who will also be presented with the Anthony De Luz Black History Maker of Today Award. This award is named after Anthony De Luz, who, with his

partner, became the first African American franchisees to open a McDonald's Restaurant in the Northeast. This award honors local leaders whose pioneering work has made an impact on Black History and continues to inspire African Americans.

RMHC of the Philadelphia Region, Inc. is dedicated to supporting programs that improve the lives of children and families. RMHC "lifts children to a better tomorrow" through scholarship programs for high school seniors; the Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey and Delaware Ronald McDonald Houses; the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children Ronald McDonald Care Mobile; and grants to not-for-profit children's programs.

McDonald's USA, LLC, is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. More than 80 percent of McDonald's 14,000 U.S. restaurants, including more than 300 McDonald's restaurants in the Greater Philadelphia Region, are independently owned and operated by local franchisees. For more information on McDonald's visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com) or log on at any of the 10,000 Wi-Fi enabled McDonald's U.S. restaurants. Visit [www.mcstate.com](http://www.mcstate.com) for local restaurant, career and program information.

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**Ronald McDonald House Charities®/ Future Achievers®  
2009 Scholarship Recipients**

Karen Acquah  
Hamilton High School-North  
Hamilton, NJ

Essence Bronner  
Winslow Township High School  
Atco, NJ

Anthony Carter  
Tower Hill School  
Wilmington, Del.

Carshena Culmer  
John W. Hallahan High School  
Philadelphia

Oluwabukola Famakinwa  
Winslow Township High School  
Atco, NJ

Kristen Ford  
Agnes Irwin School  
Rosemont, Pa.

Courtney Hunt  
West Philadelphia Catholic School  
Philadelphia

Amber Johnson  
Mount St. Joseph Academy  
Flourtown, Pa.

Haftom Khasai  
West Philadelphia Catholic School  
Philadelphia

Donte McCrary-McClain  
Salisbury Township Senior High School  
Allentown, Pa.

Crystal Nichols  
West Philadelphia Catholic School  
Philadelphia

Iredia Olaye  
Winslow Township High School  
Atco, NJ

Tyherrah Rogers  
Clayton High School  
Clayton, NJ

Jared Rollins  
Kingsway Regional High School  
Woolwich, NJ

Chioma Unegbu-Ogbonna  
Cinnaminson High School  
Cinnaminson, NJ