



**Phoenix Park "New Beginnings" After School Program,
New Dimension Learning Academy and the Imani Foundation
Recipients of Youth "Start Up" Grants from Gifts to Share, Inc.**

Sacramento, CA, May 8, 2009 - Gifts to Share, Inc. (GTS) is pleased to announce that Phoenix Park "New Beginnings" After School Program, New Dimension Learning Academy and the Imani Foundation are the successful applicants for a \$5,000 "Start Up" grant which is to fund a new initiative or project that involves Sacramento youth.

With \$5,000 in seed money for equipment and field trips to local newspapers, Phoenix Park "New Beginnings" After School Program will launch "Our Voice", a monthly newspaper that will be staffed by 25 budding writers and photographers, made up of 12 - 15 year olds residing at Phoenix Park and the surrounding area, writing about their community and items of interest to them. Jackie Rose, director of the after school program, stated "We are thrilled! The teens will be so excited to work together on this project and they will learn new skills at the same time."

A second \$5,000 "Start Up" grant will launch a summer program entitled "Healthy Living through the Arts" provided by New Dimension Learning Academy in Oak Park and the Imani Foundation. Seventy five youth ages 12 - 18 will learn the art of fencing, have lessons in nutrition and exercise, and create a mural with a muralist. Fencing exposes youth to a non-traditional sport, and focuses on self-confidence, athletic skill and discipline. In August, there will be a tournament and mural unveiling.

GTS is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization that supports the City of Sacramento's park, recreation, cultural, educational and neighborhood improvement programs and facilities and those of its partners. GTS typically provides community groups with seed money, or Start Up Grants, of up to \$1,000 on a quarterly basis to help launch new projects or programs, or to extend services to new audiences.

Media inquires can be forwarded to Lori Harder, Executive Director for Gifts to Share, Inc. at (916) 808-5172.

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