

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **White House Fatherhood Initiative honors Bright Beginnings father**

WASHINGTON, DC: Bright Beginnings, Inc. congratulates Louis Limes, a homeless parent who was honored by the White House Fatherhood Initiative on December 13, 2011 for his dedication and commitment to being a positive presence for his family and community. These local fathers were honored as *Champions of Change*, everyday heroes who are strengthening their families and their communities.

Mr. Limes was one of 12 Washington, D.C. fathers honored by the White House and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for their positive influence on their families and communities. Mr. Limes spoke about fatherhood and his goals as a father at a roundtable, which is a part of the president's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative and the "Year of Strong Fathers, Strong Families" that President Obama announced in June 2011.

"I am so pleased that the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services have recognized the extraordinary influence and impact of an involved father in the lives of their children and families," says Dr. Betty Jo Gaines, Bright Beginnings' Executive Director. "The diverse group of fathers who were honored, which includes one of our most involved fathers, makes a very strong statement about the value of all fathers in our families."

Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Joshua DuBois noted, "Responsible fatherhood is an issue very dear to the president because of his love for his wife and daughters, and his passionate belief that fathers must step up to the plate--these 12 dads are doing just that."

Bright Beginnings, which has served more than 2,100 homeless children and their families during the last 20 years, is a nationally-accredited child and family development center for homeless infants, toddlers and preschoolers and their families. Holistic education and therapeutic services positively impact school readiness and prepare homeless children for kindergarten. Bright Beginnings' family-stabilizing services create a more stable environment for homeless children and get their parents back on their feet.

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