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Historic Inaugural Attracts Formerly Homeless Chicago Youth

WASHINGTON — Five formerly homeless Chicago youth will attend this year's historic inauguration thanks to Illinois 7th District Congressman Danny K. Davis, who has given them tickets to the event. The five youth are recent graduates and current program participants of Chicago's Teen Living Programs (TLP). TLP is Chicago's only non-profit organization solely devoted to the area's homeless youth.

Accompanied by program Executive Director David L. Myers and Clinical Director Dr. Ozella R. Phillips, the youth are scheduled to arrive in D.C. on January 18, 2009. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will be the first trip to the nation's capitol for some of these youth. In addition to attending the inauguration, the group will make the most of their three-day visit by exploring area attractions and participating in events.

For more than 30 years, TLP has been addressing one of Chicago's most pressing youth issues. Every year TLP provides services to more than 500 homeless teens and adolescents. The organization offers a unique solution to youth homelessness by providing housing, job training, educational support, mental counseling, health care, and a host of other support-based resources.

United Airlines has donated roundtrip airfare for the TLP group. Although this contribution is significant, other trip expenses could amount to more than \$15,000. TLP is actively seeking individuals and corporations interested in helping these youth take advantage of this opportunity.

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*Teen Living Programs' mission is to create hope and opportunity for youth who are homeless by assisting them to permanently leave the streets, secure stable housing, and build self-sufficient, satisfying lives. Teen Living Programs (TLP) has successfully served Chicago's at-risk youth for more than 30 years. We began in 1976 as a specialized house care program for wards of the state and started serving youth who are homeless in 1981. Since 2001, we have focused **solely** on youth who are homeless — and we are the only Chicago agency to do so.*

Teen Living Programs annually serves 500 youth through a continuum of services: a street and community outreach program, a school-based prevention program, and three residential programs (an eight-bed emergency shelter, an 18-bed group transitional living program, and a 10-apartment independent living program), with wraparound supportive services in education, vocation, and recreation; a health and nutrition program; and aftercare. Visit www.teenliving.org for more information.