

August 23, 2005

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## **Southern Heritage Foundation Honors Four**

### *Giving back to the community where it's needed*

MEMPHIS – The Southern Heritage Foundation Inc., the charitable giving arm of the Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx, is distributing \$20,000 in grants to four area organizations.

At an invitation-only dinner on September 7 the foundation will award \$5,000 each to:

\* **Kappa Alpha Psi Memphis Alumni Service Corporation**

Mission: Provide educational and economic opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the Greater Memphis Metropolitan area.

\* **Downtown Porter Boys and Girls Club**

Purpose: Secure recreational/educational equipment destroyed during the storm last winter. The storm destroyed most of the roof causing the gym floor to buckle. Thus, a new roof and gym floor are two of the major needs.

\* **National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Memphis Chapter**

Purpose: Provide scholarships to assist deserving women with their economic and educational development. Implement programs which target health issues, educational policies and economic development training.

\* **The Piney Woods School (Piney Woods, MS)**

The Piney Woods School -- where students tend crops, catch fish, and feed and water livestock -- also is a place where they master advanced academics and learn to be entrepreneurs. The school is an incubator for some of the best students. Many at the school come from families below poverty level, unable to afford the \$12,000-plus annual tuition. Donations and sponsorships help fill the gap.

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The event, billed as “A Community Service Celebration,” will start at 7 p.m. in the Memphis Marriott Downtown.

“The Classic draws its strength from the community, and we want to pay back to the community,” said Fred Jones Jr., founder and producer of the Classic. “The community supports the Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx, and we think the Classic both honors the community and gives it hope and strength.”

In the past, the foundation has honored organizations as diverse as Senior Services, LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center, the Food Bank, Hope House Daycare Center, Women’s Oasis of Memphis, the Child Advocacy Center, Mid-South Junior Golf Association, Alzheimer Adult Day Services and more.

The board of the Southern Heritage Foundation, Inc. consists of Jones, Melvin Burgess Sr., William Jones, Clyde Allen and Louise Johnson-Holman.