



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information:**  
Nick Beckman  
212.868.9510 x307  
nbeckman@americascorers.org

**AMERICA SCORES SOCCER PLAYERS HAIKU, LIMERICK, AND FREE VERSE THEIR WAY TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE**

Washington, DC, October 9, 2008: America SCORES has been selected as a semi-finalist by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities as one of the most impactful youth development organizations in the country.

The President's Committee, and First Lady Laura Bush, present The Coming Up Taller Award each year to fifteen outstanding arts and humanities programs fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's youth. The Coming Up Taller Award is accompanied by a \$10,000 grant and is meant to focus national attention on these exemplary programs. America SCORES was selected as a semifinalist among more than 300 youth-based organizations.

America SCORES, on the verge of celebrating its 10th Anniversary, uses a combination of soccer, poetry, and community leadership to help children fight obesity, learn leadership skills, and discover how to translate the values of sports into other aspects of their daily lives. America SCORES has 14 affiliate offices across the country, working with 6,000 students, ages 8-15, from underserved urban public schools.

One powerful example of the America SCORES program can be highlighted through the story of Michael, an America SCORES poet/athlete from Boston. Michael entered the program with behavioral problems and was recommended to America SCORES by one of his teachers as a student who needed an outlet to focus his sometimes aggressive energies. After a year in the program, Michael established himself as not only a leader and mentor, but as one of the best national poets. In fact, Michael recently flew to New York as Boston's representative at the America SCORES National Poetry Slam!, where he moved an audience of 300 to tears through his original poetry.

"We are not just a soccer program," America SCORES President Paul Caccamo pointed out. "It is about the values learned on the soccer field which are often only channeled for competitive means. When you take that teamwork, that determination, that competitive confidence and apply it to literacy and community service, it is amazing what these kids can accomplish."

-- more --

The 15 winning organizations will be flown to the White House to receive the award from First Lady Laura Bush. Winners will most likely be announced in late November.

**ABOUT THE COMING UP TALLER AWARDS:**

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, provide them learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities. These awards focus national attention on exemplary programs currently fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's children and youth through education and practical experience in the arts and the humanities.

**ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES:**

The President of the United States recognizes that the nation's cultural life contributes to the vibrancy of society and the strength of democracy. Through its programs and activities PCAH helps to underscore the civic, social, educational, and historical value of arts and humanities in the life of our nation. PCAH exercises leadership in international cultural cooperation, addresses the needs of youth, recognizes our nation's creative genius, and preserves our nation's cultural and historic treasures.

###