



For Immediate Release  
January 2, 2012

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## The Richard Marsh Memorial Youth Basketball Tournament



**Fairfax, VA.** -- The Hoops For Youth Foundation is proud to announce today that it has named its annual youth basketball tournament after Richard Marsh, 16, who passed away in November from complications of a heart-lung disorder.

"We are deeply saddened by Richard's passing," stated Danny Leonard, Board member. "Richard exemplified the attitude and spirit the Hoops For Youth Foundation was founded on and this was a tremendous loss to all of us who knew and coached him," added Leonard.

Richard was the quarterback of the 2009 George Mason High School varsity football team. He grew up in Falls Church and participated in a full range of sports, including Little League baseball, the youth basketball programs of the F.C. Recreation Department and Mason lacrosse.

"This has been a very difficult time for Richard's family and friends," stated Paul Miller, Board chairman. "Richard touched so many lives and his memory will now live on through the kids our foundation supports," added Miller.

The Hoops For Youth Foundation was created in September 1999 with the mission of creating opportunities for at-risk kids through basketball. Since this time our efforts and programs have grown and are no longer just about basketball, but much more. Our goals are to teach kids that the skills they use on the basketball court can be used in everyday life to help them succeed. Basketball and other team sports provide an infrastructure where social skills can develop. The kids we support through our charitable partners learn that the skills they develop playing basketball extend well beyond the court and are applicable to the challenges life throws at them.

Basketball encourages more than healthy competition; it helps erase racial and economic boundaries. Basketball can unite kids from all backgrounds and communities. Moreover, the trust that develops between coaches/mentors and the kids provide an opportunity for discussion of the crucial issues that affect their everyday lives.

Starting today, the annual Hoops For Youth Foundation's Thanksgiving youth basketball tournament will be renamed the Richard Marsh Memorial Youth Basketball Tournament.

"Richard's loss is felt by all who knew him. We have an opportunity to mourn Richard's loss and celebrate a new beginning for his memory. Our hope is that we can hold Richard up as a model for all kids regardless of where they grow up. Richard's positive attitude is something we believe can be passed down from child to child and we plan to make it a goal of this event," concluded Leonard.

"The Hoops For Youth Foundation is much more than basketball. It's about teaching kids that the skills they learn playing athletics can be used in their everyday lives. The way Richard approached his life and sports will help us show kids in the community that they can succeed," added Miller.

For more information on this event or how you can honor Richard's memory, please contact Paul Miller or Danny Leonard at (703) 930-7790 or via e-mail at [pmiller@mwcapitol.com](mailto:pmiller@mwcapitol.com). You can also find out more information about the Hoops For Youth Foundation at [www.hoopsforyouthfoundation.org](http://www.hoopsforyouthfoundation.org).

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