

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation Announces Its LTD (Leadership Training and Development) Program**

(Morristown, NJ, March 17, 2008) -- The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation today announced plans to launch The Hope Chest LTD Program™ this spring. “LTD” is an acronym for “leadership training and development.” Now, in addition to awarding college scholarships to New Jersey’s deserving minority high school students pursuing post-secondary education, the Foundation will offer a professional development curriculum that prepares its scholars for summer internship positions with various corporate sponsors of the Foundation. Through mentoring and workshops facilitated by seasoned business executives and consultants, The Hope Chest LTD Program™ will focus on instruction to improve business writing skills, public speaking skills, general office decorum and presentation--all essential elements in projecting a polished, professional image in today’s work environment.

“We feel The Hope Chest LTD Program™ is a win-win initiative for both our scholars and corporate sponsors,” commented Kenneth Edwards, Chair of the Board of Directors of The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation. “Our organization now can meet the needs of employers seeking to recruit a diverse pool of entry level, talented professionals while providing our Hope Chest scholars access to relevant work experience and additional income to finance their education.”

Wakefern Food Corporation, a New Jersey based retailer-owned cooperative and Hope Chest supporter, will be one of the first such employers to avail itself of the benefits of The Hope Chest LTD Program™. “Through the program, Wakefern gains access to a new pool of highly qualified candidates. We have received several impressive resumes so far and are quite eager to begin the interviewing process,” stated Ann Marie Burke, Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Development. “In many respects, The Hope Chest LTD Program™ augments our selection process by providing an initial screening of promising candidates.”

The Foundation is anticipating an inaugural class size of at least 25 students and will commence the enrollment process later this month. “The Hope Chest Foundation is an honorable, charitable organization which graciously awarded me with a scholarship in the past for my college education. I am thankful for the monetary aid the foundation bestowed upon me and am glad to see it is expanding its programs with new Hope Chest LTD Program™,” remarked Anthony Baker, a 2005 Hope Chest Scholar. “As an Eagle Scout, I am well aware of the importance of leadership in today’s society. Having younger generations prepared earlier in life enables them to be more productive members of society in the future. As a leader, it is not only important for one to know the way, go the way, but show the way, as well.”

## **ABOUT THE HOPE CHEST SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

*The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization charged with providing educational funding opportunities to graduating, minority high school students who are residents of New Jersey. Last year, through its various fundraising activities, The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation awarded over \$105,000 in scholarships to nearly 60 students throughout the state. More information about The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation can be found on its web site at [www.hope-chest.org](http://www.hope-chest.org).*

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