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For Immediate Release

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## One Million Black Fathers Expected to Lead the March for Educational Excellence in American Schools

125 Cities Expected in the Largest, Organized Back-To-School Effort in  
U.S. History

**(Chicago)** – Like an army on its way to battle, hundreds of thousands of Black men will wake their children, make them breakfast, check their book bags, and then take their children to school on the first day school this year. This scene will be played out at thousands of schools in America and other parts of the world. Last year, about 200,000 men from 83 cities participated in the **Million Father March 2005**. This year, an estimated 500,000 men from 125 cities are expected to participate. The **Million Father March 2006** provides an escort of safety, support, and encouragement to children of all ages.

“Research shows that children whose fathers take an active role in their educational lives earn better grades, get better test scores, enjoy school more and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college,” says Phillip Jackson, executive director of The Black Star Project, a Chicago based non-profit leading the Million Father March initiative. Additionally, children have fewer behavior problems when fathers listen and talk them regularly and are active in their lives. A good father is part of a good parent team and is critical to a strong family structure. Strong family structures produce children who are more academically proficient, socially developed and self-assured. Such children become adults who are a valuable asset to their communities. “Better parents produce better communities, better schools, and better students with higher academic achievements!” says Jackson.

The **Million Father March 2006** is designed to reinforce fathers in their role as a dynamic force and a positive model in their children’s life and education. Participants in the event include fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, step-fathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers, significant male caregivers and friends of the family. Although this event is sponsored by Black men, women and men of all races are also encouraged to take children to school on their first day.

Last year, from New Haven, Connecticut, to Hilo, Hawaii, fathers stepped up to take part in the **Million Father March 2005**. Each city tailored the march to meet their needs. Elected officials, dignitaries, celebrities, and print and radio media reps turned out in support fathers on the first day of school.

Since schools across the country start the year on different days and months, the **March** will be a **rolling event that takes** place on the first day of the school year in cities, villages, and towns across America between August 7, 2006 and October 13, 2006.

The **Million Father March 2006** is sponsored in part by the **Schott Foundation for Public Education**, the **National Council on Educating Black Children** and **The Black Star Project**. Please visit our website for complete information at [www.millionfathermarch.org](http://www.millionfathermarch.org). You may also email [blackstar1000@ameritech.net](mailto:blackstar1000@ameritech.net) or call 312/842-3527 for more information.