

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NFL LINEBACKER, CHRIS DRAFT  
MAKES PRESENTATION TO CLAYTON COUNTY STUDENTS**

Riverdale, GA - When St. Louis Rams linebacker, Chris Draft (former Atlanta Falcon), watched a screening of the movie, **"The Great Debaters"**, he had a brilliant idea. Draft and the **Chris Draft Family Foundation** are traveling the country screening the movie for local students. Draft will bring his "A Discussion and A Movie" program to Clayton County's High School Students on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Galaxy Theatre in Riverdale. Students from each high school are invited to view the movie, discuss their thoughts and perceptions about the movie. In each community a panel of local leaders is invited to join in the discussion, in addition to local active and retired NFL players. The Clayton County panel will include school officials, Judge Steven Teske, Solicitor Leslie Miller-Terry, Rep. Darryl Jordan, Pastor Dallas C. Wilson, Sheriff Victor Hill, and others. Following each showing, the students are given one week to write an essay and enter it in Draft's essay competition.

Chris Draft is in no way a stranger to Clayton County. He first came to Clayton County in 2004 following the death of **Travon Wilson (four year-old gunned down in a public park during an 18 member gang shootout)**. Draft called State Representative Roberta Abdul-Salaam and asked how he could help. Rep. Abdul-Salaam said, "At that time we had no recreation or youth centers. Chris Draft and fellow NFL alumni came to address the Clayton County Board of Commissioners about the need for quality recreational programs for our youth." With their comments, they also pledged to come back and bring programs once the centers were opened. "Chris Draft has more than made good on his promise to come back and help with programs," said Abdul-Salaam. During the summer of 2007, Chris Draft and the Chris Draft Family Foundation sponsored over 60 Clayton youth for "Get Checked and Get Fit" Draft Day 2007 at the NFL/YET Center in downtown Atlanta, providing transportation, and registration fees.

Last July, Chris Draft brought 12 NFL players to the Virginia Gray Recreation Center to participate in the Annual Peace & Unity Block Party, sponsored by Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam, the Clayton Village, and the Riverdale Technical College Foundation. Draft and NFL players worked with over 2000 participants with character building exercises, fitness training and football drills. This event included a health fair, authors and book signing, educational programs, a job fair, a kiddie village and plenty of food and fun.

Draft believes that the answer for fighting violence and fighting negativity is saying "we don't accept that. We won't accept it." Draft has been involved with countless other community initiatives ranging from character education to health, nutrition and fitness. His local involvement includes work with the Clayton Village Anti-Violence Task Force, Raising Up Leaders Conference, the Atlanta NFL/YET Center, Awesome, Inc. and other youth programs in the community.

The Chris Draft Family Foundation strives to empower and uplift communities by educating and equipping families to make healthier choices. To achieve its mission, The Foundation focuses on educating families on the importance of physical fitness, nutrition, character development, health maintenance and healthy living conditions. Having battled through Asthma while playing football at Stanford University, Draft initiated his national "Get Checked and Get Fit" Draft Day "fitness camp with a twist" geared toward educating youth and parents about fitness, whole-body wellness and nutrition.

As part of the NFL Alumni Player of the Year Dinner held during Super Bowl XLII, Chris was honored with the NFL Alumni Spirit Award, presented annually to "an individual who has shown a commitment to community service". Draft was also selected as a 2008 JB Award recipient for leadership, dedication, and commitment to team and community. The JB Award is an annual honor bestowed upon 12 active NFL players in recognition of their off the field contributions, through building better communities and stronger families. The JB Award makes him a finalist for the Byron "Whizzer" White Award, an award named in honor of former NFL player and Supreme Court Justice Byron White.

In recognition for his dedication and continued work in the Clayton County community, State Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam and other members of the Clayton County Legislative Delegation plan to present Chris Draft with a State Proclamation this week at the State Capitol. For more info about these programs, call (404) 656-0325.