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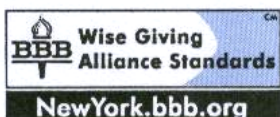
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Susan L. Taylor, Editor Emerita of *Essence* Magazine and Errol Louis, Columnist for the *New York Daily News* Lead Community Conversation About Saving At-Risk Children and Youth

—A Call to Action to Secure Brighter Futures for Vulnerable Children and Youth—



Susan L. Taylor, Editor Emerita of *Essence* magazine and Founder, National Cares Mentoring Movement.

Brooklyn, NY – On Thursday, March 13, 2008, the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service (www.bbcs.org)—one of Brooklyn's first and largest providers of social services to disadvantaged children, families and adults with disabilities—will present *Conversations with Community Leaders*, the first in a series of important conversations with community leaders about critical issues affecting Brooklyn and other urban communities today.

The first session features Community Leader Susan L. Taylor, Editor Emerita of *Essence* magazine and Founder of National Cares Mentoring Movement in conversation with Errol Louis, Columnist for the *New York Daily News*. Together, they will lead a discussion with other community leaders on the challenges facing at-risk children and youth. The event will be held at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus, Spike Lee Theater, Library Learning Center 122, One University Plaza in Downtown Brooklyn from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"On our watch, increasing numbers of our children—our treasure and future—are in peril. The negative forces claiming our young are powerful, but there is no force more powerful than our commitment and love. We are the solution," Taylor says.

For nearly three decades, Susan L. Taylor, synonymous with *Essence* magazine—the brand she built as its fashion and beauty editor, editor-in-chief and editorial director—has been the driving force behind one of the most celebrated Black-owned businesses of our time. Her passion and focus today is the National Cares Mentoring Movement, a call to action she founded in 2006 as *Essence Cares*. The Cares mentoring movement is a massive campaign to recruit one million able adults to help secure our children who are in peril and losing ground.

"We are so pleased to partner with Susan Taylor and the National Cares Mentoring Movement, and Errol Louis on this critical issue. Nurturing and protecting vulnerable children and youth is a large part of what we do throughout Brooklyn everyday, and we need to collectively join forces with other community leaders to gain better results for underserved youth," says Alan D. Goodman, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service.

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For more than 140 years, the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service has been one of Brooklyn's most critical community resources for people in need. As one of the borough's first and largest not-for-profit social services agencies serving 13,000 people each year, the Brooklyn Bureau works to increase low-income families' access to safe, educational and affordable child care services; stop the inappropriate placement of children into foster care; keep at-risk families together, strong and functioning; and train and place adults with disabilities into gainful employment. This past year, with a skilled staff of 500 who believe in what they do, using progressive programs and proven methods, the Brooklyn Bureau helped 784 children participate in safe, stimulating child care services; 1,087 school-age children in low performing public schools participated in theme-based afterschool education; eight out-of-school teens with serious emotional disturbance earned GED diplomas; and 38 out-of-school teens with serious emotional disturbance gained employment experience.

The Brooklyn Bureau's *Conversations with Community Leaders* event with Susan L. Taylor and Errol Louis is sponsored by Long Island University, Planned Parenthood, Cakeman Raven Confectionery and Cullen and Dykman Bleakley Platt LLP. For more information or to join the *Conversations* series, please contact Cheryl Todmann, Director of Community Relations, at 718-310-5761 or ctodmann@bbcs.org. To learn more about the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, please visit www.bbcs.org.

Press representatives interested in attending the *Conversations with Community Leaders* event with Susan L. Taylor and Errol Louis should contact Cheryl Todmann, Director of Community Relations, at 718-310-5761 or ctodmann@bbcs.org.

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