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**CONTACTS:**

Jennifer Diamond Haber

Qorvis MSLGROUP

202-683-3225

[jhaber@qorvis.com](mailto:jhaber@qorvis.com)

**FIGHT FOR CHILDREN HONORS SCHOOLS  
WITH RISING STAR AWARD AND \$100,000 GRANT**

*Friendship Public Charter School – Chamberlain Campus and Kelly Miller Middle School Recognized for Improved Student Achievement*

**WASHINGTON –June 4, 2014** – Fight For Children today announced its Rising Star award winners at its Quality Schools Initiative luncheon. Friendship Public Charter School – Chamberlain Campus and Kelly Miller Middle School were named the two Rising Star schools of 2014 and were each awarded \$100,000 to implement their strategic plans for continued improvement.

The Rising Star award goes to one D.C. public school and one D.C. public charter school in recognition of improved student achievement and an improved classroom environment. D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson and Darren Woodruff, vice chair of the D.C. Public Charter School Board, joined Fight For Children Chairman Raul Fernandez and FedEx Corporate Vice President Gina Adams to present the awards to Friendship Public Charter School–Chamberlain Campus and Kelly Miller Middle School.

“We are pleased to honor these two outstanding schools,” said Michela English, president and CEO of Fight For Children. “Their great work to improve student outcomes and success should be a model for other D.C. schools. We congratulate Friendship Chamberlain and Kelly Miller and look forward to their continued work to improve the lives of the children they serve.”

Friendship Public Charter School – Chamberlain Campus serves more than 700 D.C. students in grades preschool through eighth in Ward 6. The school aims to prepare its students for high school success leading to the completion of a four-year college degree. With the award from Fight For Children, the school will implement a professional development lab on site for teachers to work to increase the school’s language arts proficiency rate by 7 percent each year for the next three years.

Kelly Miller Middle School serves more than 300 sixth through eighth grade students in Ward 7. Its mission is to provide students with an education that supports innovation, creative thinking, and character development. With the Fight For Children award, the school will expand its School-Wide Enrichment Model (SEM) to provide specific classes based on student interests

across the entire student body, toward the goal of continuing its recent, impressive academic gains.

“We are honored to be named a Rising Star school and receive this award that will help our teachers and students continue to improve and excel in the classroom,” said Abdullah Zaki, principal of Kelly Miller Middle School. “The Quality Schools Initiative makes a real difference, and we are thankful for Fight For Children’s support of D.C. schools.”

Since 2008, Fight For Children has provided \$1.3 million to 19 schools to support their strategic plans for stronger academic achievement. These schools were recognized for dramatically improving the academic performance of the predominately low-income students they serve. In addition to these awards, Fight For Children also hosts day-long conferences twice a year as part of the Quality Schools Initiative. These free events feature local and national education thought leaders and are designed in collaboration with D.C. school leaders to address their most pressing needs.

For more information about the Quality Schools Initiative, visit [http://www.fightforchildren.org/Promoting\\_Quality\\_Education.html](http://www.fightforchildren.org/Promoting_Quality_Education.html).

#### **About Fight For Children**

The late Joseph E. Robert, Jr., created Fight For Children and Fight Night in 1990 as a way to marshal resources to help low-income kids in the nation's capital secure a brighter future. Since 2012, Raul Fernandez, Vice Chairman of Monumental Sports and Entertainment, has served as Chairman of Fight For Children.

Fight For Children programs focus on improving the quality of early childhood and K-12 education. Fight Night, Fight For Children’s signature fundraiser, brings together 2,000 heavyweights of business, government, entertainment and community service, for an evening of fun, auctions, exciting entertainment and live professional boxing bouts. One of the most highly acclaimed events in Washington, Fight Night raises funds for Fight For Children and other organizations that provide education and healthcare services to low-income children. For further information, please visit [www.fightforchildren.org](http://www.fightforchildren.org).

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