



For Immediate Release

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**The Orange Duffel Bag Foundation Honors 25 At-Risk Youth Graduating from Intense 12-Week Life Skills Coaching Course**

*ODBF provides life plan and goal achievement coaching for youth in and aging-out of foster care*

ATLANTA (July 6, 2012) – On Saturday, July 7, The Orange Duffel Bag Foundation (ODBF) will honor graduates from its comprehensive 12-week coaching program based on the *7 Rules for the Road* from the multi-award winning book *My Orange Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change*. Twenty-five at-risk youth from Macon/Bibb County between 15 and 19 years old, all in foster care and many close to aging out of the foster care system, have successfully completed the Orange Duffel Bag Foundation coaching program. The program coaches them to find their passions, create a comprehensive Life Plan, set and achieve meaningful goals, and learn strategies to overcome obstacles and remain focused on achieving their education.

To celebrate their accomplishments and further their education, each graduate will receive an orange duffel bag containing a laptop computer with technical service provided by Radio Shack. The ODBF program was created in partnership with the State of Georgia Department of Human Services, UGA Fanning Institute, GA EmpowerMENT, and Clark Atlanta University.

During a closed morning session, graduates will present what was most meaningful to them from the course. The graduation ceremony will then be held from 12:00 until 3 PM in the Professional Sciences Center, Room 211, at Macon State College, 100 College Station Drive, Macon 31206.

Sam Bracken, Orange Duffel Bag Foundation co-founder and co-author of *My Orange Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change*, will be the special guest speaker and will

present each graduate with his or her certificate.

“We could have never have helped these youth without the partnerships and support of businesses and community leaders such as Macon Chamber of Commerce, Xerox Foundation and Xerox Georgia, Radio Shack, Staples, Dab’s Café, Chick-fil-A, Peyton Anderson Foundation, Miller-Motte College, and Macon State,” notes Mike Daly, ODBF Board Chair. “Together we have positively impacted these young lives. It’s often said we need to invest in our future’s most valuable resource, Georgia’s kids, and these partners have demonstrated that passion through their investment in our program and these youth.”

The foundation, co-founded in 2010 by Sam Bracken and Echo Garrett, is a 501c3 nonprofit headquartered in Atlanta and provides coaching, training and ongoing advocacy to at-risk youth ages 12-24 in a spirit of offering hope and enriching young lives. Bracken was once a homeless teen who earned a football scholarship to Georgia Tech and became a successful executive. His story of triumph over adversity is the basis of the ODBF curriculum.



### **About The Orange Duffel Bag Foundation**

The Orange Duffel Bag Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit, provides coaching, training and ongoing mentoring to at-risk youth ages 12-24 in a spirit of offering hope and enriching young lives.

[www.OrangeDuffelBagFoundation.org](http://www.OrangeDuffelBagFoundation.org)

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