

## JEFFERSON AWARDS YOUTH SERVICE INITIATIVE TAKES ROOTS IN MEMPHIS

In January 2009, the Jefferson Awards began implementing the Youth Service Initiative (YSI) in their newest region, Memphis Tennessee. Through a partnership formed with BRIDGES, a well respected and comprehensive youth service program in Memphis, YSI staff has targeted 8 area high schools to become the founding members of the Memphis Region.

Through the partnership with Bridge Builders, a BRIDGES program focusing on creating a diverse youth leadership class, the Memphis YSI team has access to over 100 area high schools and thousands of students.

Brady Tanner, Jefferson Awards Regional Director, is excited and ready to introduce the program. “I am excited to be a part of the Jefferson Awards Youth Service Initiative and to have the opportunity to implement the program and

recognition components within Memphis City Schools.

Through our partnership with BRIDGES, the Jefferson Awards has an opportunity to grow beyond our initial regional goals and to supplement the Bridge Builders Program through the JA recognition opportunities.”



Brady Tanner, JA Regional Director, and  
Greg Moore, JA National Director at  
BRIDGES

Jefferson Awards Co-founder and current President, Sam Beard, sees the YSI/BRIDGES partnership as a win – win for the community. By implementing the Jefferson Awards components into the stellar Bridge Builders curriculum, the city of Memphis has another progressive and forward thinking community partnership.

Mario Hendrix, Director of the Bridge Builders Program, believes the newly formed partnership will strengthen the services both agencies deliver to Memphis area youth. “We have some magnificent youth in our community. The Jefferson Awards allows other communities across the nation to see the outstanding service our youth are performing.

The eight high schools that will be the first to introduce the Jefferson Awards to their students are: Central, Ridgeway, Overton, City University, Middle High School, Bolton, Houston, St. Agnes and St. Benedict. Having introduced himself to many of the schools’ Bridge Builder Faculty Sponsors, Mr. Tanner hopes to announce the first monthly Jefferson Award recipient at the end of February.