



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jackie Williams
901.323.2211

**MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADER AND ACTIVIST TO SERVE AS
KEYNOTE FOR YWCA LUNCHEON**

(January 23, 2008) – Dr. Maxine Smith, a longtime leader and civil rights activist in the Memphis community, will give the keynote address at the 11th Annual Benefit Luncheon for the YWCA of Greater Memphis. The luncheon is scheduled for March 5, 2008.

“The YWCA Annual Luncheon is always an exciting event,” said Jackie Williams, Interim Executive Director of the YWCA. “It is a chance for many of us to get together each year and enjoy the smiles of so many people, while helping to make a financial difference for services that address critical needs in our community. We are very honored to welcome Dr. Smith as our featured speaker this year.”

Dr. Maxine Smith is a board member for the National Civil Rights Museum and former member of the Tennessee Board of Regents. She also serves as a current board member for the local chapter of the NAACP. Dr. Smith served on the Memphis City School Board for 24 years and was school board president from 1991-92.

In addition, the YWCA will announce the recipient of a Presidential Award at this year’s luncheon, and allow attendees to honor other women who have made a difference in their lives through this year’s Wall of Honor. The luncheon will take place on Wednesday, March 5 at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn, University of Memphis. Tickets may

be purchased through a minimum donation of \$100 by contacting the main office at 901.323.2211 or online at www.memphisywca.org.

Since 1919, the YWCA of Greater Memphis has been providing mission-driven programs in the Greater Memphis area. The YWCA's mission is to empower women and to eliminate racism. All program areas incorporate strong prevention components aimed at building individual strengths and resilience, cultivating leadership qualities, and changing systems that perpetuate discrimination in any form. The YWCA actively seeks collaborations and partnerships and takes leadership roles on issues affecting women, children, and families.

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