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LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION BEGINS THIRD YEAR OF PROVIDING COURT SPACE TO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

November 17, 2005, Manhattan -- This fall, Urban Dove is excited to be

kicking off the third year of the Net Gain program, providing basketball courts for New York City public schools without access to their own facilities. In collaboration with Youth, I.N.C. and Basketball City, Urban Dove arranges free court space for Net Gain teams, allowing over 400 students to play basketball who would not otherwise be able to participate in after-school sports.

“We are very pleased with the growing success of the Net Gain program,” said Jai Nanda, executive director of Urban Dove. “The program allows the kids to be kept busy and focused during the crucial after-school hours, while having fun and learning new skills.”

Although Net Game’s major function is to coordinate the basketball games, the program strives to impact the participants on a deeper level. The student-athletes participate in local service projects to teach teamwork and to give a sense of community. Urban Dove also provides coaches with professional development workshops to help ensure that they are providing a positive experience for their students.

Megan Weed, a varsity player at Manhattan Village Academy describes the impact of Net Gain, “Playing on our varsity team has taught me that sportsmanship is

about much more than winning. I have learned responsibility, leadership and how to act as a role model.”

The schools are asked only to provide their own coaches and to enforce participation in the community service projects and the annual Net Gain fundraising tournament. The 16 participating high schools include: Beacon HS, Coalition School for Social Change, East Side Community HS, Eleanor Roosevelt HS, HS for Health Professions and Human Services, HS of Economics and Finance, Institute for Collaborative Education, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis HS, Landmark HS, HS of Leadership & Public Service, Liberty HS, Life Sciences, Manhattan Village Academy, Richard R. Green HS of Teaching, School of the Future, and University Neighborhood HS.

“Not having a gym at our school made it impossible for us to field any teams,” explains Jeff Nelson, boys’ basketball coach at Coalition for Social Change. “Net Gain fills a critical need for our students and allows them to interact with other students in a competitive yet friendly atmosphere”

The Net Gain program is run by Urban Dove, a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of New York City’s at-risk youth by creating a supportive, positive environment where kids can develop the life-skills and confidence they need to reach their full potential. For more information about how your child can become involved with Urban Dove programs, please contact the Urban Dove at (212) 244-2131 or visit www.urbandove.org or call (212) 244-2131.