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Contact: Charissa Abbay, United Friends of the Children  
213.580.1825  
[charissa@unitedfriends.org](mailto:charissa@unitedfriends.org)

Seth Fowler, bluPRint  
310.208.1300 ext. 218  
[sfowler@blupr.com](mailto:sfowler@blupr.com)

## WENDY AND BARRY MEYER CONTINUE THEIR COMMITMENT TO FUNDING FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION BY PROVIDING A \$250,000 CHALLENGE GIFT TO ENDOW UNITED FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN COLLEGE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

### *THEIR GENEROUS PLEDGE WILL HELP UFC REACH THEIR \$1 MILLION DOLLAR ENDOWMENT GOAL*

Los Angeles, August 27, 2007—United Friends of the Children is proud to announce that long time UFC supporters, **Wendy and Barry Meyer**, are continuing to demonstrate their commitment to providing opportunities for foster youth by generously offering to donate \$250,000 to United Friends of the Children on the condition that UFC will raise an additional \$250,000 to match their pledge. This incredible challenge grant will specifically help expand UFC's College Sponsorship Program and will aid UFC in reaching their first phase endowment goal of \$1 million.

This philanthropic gesture is just one of the many ways that the Meyers have given back to UFC. Barry Meyer, Chairman and CEO of Warner Bros. Entertainment, and Dr. Wendy Meyer have been active participants in the organization for years. The couple received the group's 2005 Brass Ring Award, which honors individuals whose humanitarianism and commitment have put opportunity within the reach of children. Additionally, Wendy Meyer is a devoted UFC board member, who serves on the Pathways Task Force and was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Pathways Transitional Living Program.

Wendy Meyer said, "Foster youth do not have the support network or safety net most often provided by family as young people move into their college years. The UFC College Sponsorship Program provides much needed financial and emotional support to former foster youth to enable them to navigate the challenging college years and can increase their chances for a successful adulthood. We are fortunate to play a role in establishing an endowment that will become an enduring source of assistance to these young people."

The College Sponsorship Program selects graduating high school seniors and three transfer students each year to receive ongoing financial support while they are pursuing their four-year degrees. The program offers financial assistance, in-depth supportive services and personalized attention to meet the needs of individual students, while empowering them to become successfully independent, young adults. UFC makes a five-year financial commitment to each recipient and staff members mentor the youth through their college experiences. UFC's College Sponsorship program is uniquely successful in increasing the college graduation rate of former foster youth. While the nationally reported rate of foster youth earning a Bachelor's Degree is less than 5%, 78% of the current UFC program youth earn a Bachelor's Degree.

United Friends of the Children President Polly Williams said, "UFC is proud that the Meyers have chosen our College Sponsorship Program for this generous challenge gift. There is no way to truly measure how these much needed funds will touch the lives of so many foster youth. The support they receive in our program is not only financial, but also provides a support system to help them through the college experience and on the road to adulthood."

For additional information on ways to contribute to the UFC College Sponsorship Program, please contact Charissa Abbay of United Friends of the Children at (213) 580-1825 or Seth Fowler at bluPRint Public Relations at (310) 208-1300.

### **ABOUT UNITED FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN**

Founded in 1979 by Nancy Daly Riordan, UFC addresses the unmet needs of Los Angeles' most vulnerable and underserved population – foster youth. United Friends of the Children is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to bettering the lives of foster children and to supporting former foster youth in their journey to become successful, independent adults. Through its programs, advocacy efforts and direct involvement with youth, UFC seeks to be a catalyst for change.

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