

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Miss Texas to Share “Never Give Up” Message
With Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch and Other Youth Organizations**

Who: Cal Farley’s
What: Visit from Miss Texas, Shilah Phillips
When: Wednesday, June 13, 2007, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM
Where: 12:00 Noon at Marty’s restaurant (2740 Westhaven Village); 7:00 PM Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch (36 miles from Amarillo on U.S. 385)

Boys Ranch- The current Miss Texas, Shilah Phillips, was one of the top 50 contenders hoping to be the next “American Idol” during its 3rd season, won the Miss Texas crown on her first try (only the second woman in the organization’s history to do so), is the first African-American to serve as Miss Texas and was almost named Miss America (she was the 1st Runner-Up at the January competition in Las Vegas, NV). In addition to this, she has received more than \$40,000 in scholarship money from the Miss America program, all while being a newcomer to pageants. Sure, she has achieved notable success, but much of her drive comes from a commitment to “never giving up,” a message that is a central theme to her “platform,” or the program she has chosen to promote during her time as Miss Texas. The “Never Give Up” message will be shared with children that represent several Amarillo area non-profit organizations on Wednesday.



Shilah Phillips, Miss Texas 2006

Young people from High Plains Children Home, the Amarillo Downtown Women’s Center, and the Amarillo United Citizens Forum (the Black Cultural Center) will hear Shilah’s positive message of staying in school, living a healthy lifestyle and keeping dreams alive at a special luncheon hosted by Cal Farley’s at Noon.

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Shilah will then travel to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch where she will tour the campus, then share her "Never Give Up" message and showcase her incredible vocal talent at an evening event that is free and open to the public. The Boys Ranch event will begin at 7:00 PM in the Dobkins Fine Arts Center. The media is invited to cover both or one of Miss Texas' appearances. "Shilah is a talented young woman and we're looking forward to sharing her vocal abilities and positive message with our students, other childcare organizations and the community at large," said Dan Adams, president and CEO of Cal Farley's. "I think its so neat that we are getting her to come to Boys Ranch, its exciting and we have a lot planned for her," added Boys Ranch resident Britnee G. who also serves on the student-committee that has helped plan Shilah's visit.

After winning the title of Miss Texas, Shilah embarked on a 12-month speaking tour sharing her encouraging message with hundreds of thousands of Texans, both young and old. She has recorded many demo records and seized a recording opportunity in Los Angeles; however, after not hitting it big time, she realized the importance of a completed education. "I understand that the chances of success are greater in the future by completing a degree," said Shilah. She moved to the DFW area to focus on her studies, and she has been accepted to the nationally renowned jazz program at the University of North Texas. Shilah will crown the newly named Miss Texas in Fort Worth on Saturday, July 7, 2007.

Cal Farley's, is a Christ-centered organization that cares for approximately 310 at-risk boys and girls at its two campuses – Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. Children from pre-school through high school are accepted with no charge to their families. The Cal Farley programs provide a variety of academic, vocational, spiritual and extra-curricular activities for the children in care.

For more information on Miss Texas 2006 or Cal Farley's, please visit:

<http://www.misstexas.org/>

<http://www.misstexas.org/news-events-index2.htm>

<http://www.calfarley.org/>