

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### New fund for African Americans: The Dietrich Jackson Memorial Fund

The Putnam County Community Foundation announced a new field of interest fund for Putnam County African Americans, established in memory of Dietrich Jackson, a Greencastle High School student who passed away in December 2007. The Fund is for educational and other charitable purposes to enhance the quality of life for Putnam County African Americans.

“This is a fund that has the potential to grow in strength and influence,” said Elaine Peck, Executive Director of the Putnam County Community Foundation. “We envision this Fund eventually serving to convene and empower our African American residents to make strategic investments for the betterment of our community.”

Dietrich Jerjuan Jackson was born June 1, 1990 in Greencastle to Treva Jackson and Aaron Pankratz. He spent his first 6 years in Greencastle and attended Jones Elementary for kindergarten. When his father graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Dietrich went to live with him and attended elementary, middle school and high school in Atlanta until January of 2007. He returned to Greencastle to live with his paternal grandmother, and attended Greencastle High School until his death December 15, 2007. He was bright, full of promise, had musical and artistic talents, and was college bound. It is in his memory that a fund was established to honor the kind of young man he was and might have been.

Dietrich Jackson is described by many as a young man who could reach out to everyone. “He stood up for kids who were picked on, was kind, a good friend, had a big smile and made a positive impact on everyone who knew him,” said senior class president, Tyler Wade. Jim Church, principal at GHS commented that Dietrich was so genuine, respectful and friendly, that despite being new to Greencastle, he made a strong impression and stood out from other students. As an African American in a white community, he contributed to improving the awareness and acceptance of students who are racially or ethnically different from the majority. There could be no one better suited to be the inspiration for a fund to enhance the lives of Putnam County African Americans.

Contributions may be made payable to the Putnam County Community Foundation for the purpose of the Dietrich Jackson Memorial Fund and mailed to 2 South Jackson Street, Greencastle, Indiana 46135.

*The Putnam County Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity established in 1985 to administer endowments, award grants and provide leadership, enriching the quality of life and strengthening community in Putnam County. The Community Foundation administers more than 174 funds for donors supporting a variety of charities.*