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## TACOMA TEENAGER RECEIVES \$5,000 AWARD:

Charles Carson Chosen as Yoshiyama Award Recipient

Washington, D.C. -- Charles Carson, 19, of Tacoma has been named as one of eight national recipients of The Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community. The award, presented annually by The Hitachi Foundation to young people who have made outstanding contributions to their communities, consists of a \$5,000 gift that can be used at the discretion of each recipient.

Carson and the other award recipients will be honored here at a luncheon hosted by The Hitachi Foundation in November.

Carson, who is a graduate of The Oakland School in Tacoma, was selected as The Yoshiyama Award recipient, according to Foundation Vice President Felicia B. Lynch, "because of his courage, support, and leadership -- especially in his work with at-risk young people in his community. He has been successful not only in getting young people 'off the streets,' but in keeping them off.

"Everyone with whom we spoke," Lynch added, "said that it is virtually impossible to separate who Charles is from what he has done for Tacoma."

Tacoma's "Safe Streets" campaign has been a major focus of Carson's community service activities. The organization works to encourage community mobilization and activism in an effort to reclaim city streets from drugs, violence and other related crimes. In 1989 alone, Carson volunteered more than 500 hours to the program, which he boosted through speaking engagements at

area schools, rallies, community organizations, and on radio and television.

Recently hired as the Boys and Girls Club's first minority staff member, Carson first served the Club as what others describe as "an untiring volunteer." In that capacity, he designed a self-esteem class, counseled his peers on a one-to-one basis, started a weight-lifting program for 13-year olds, and initiated a basketball program for drop-outs who had never participated in formal sports programs. One of his nominators said: "When kids didn't show up for basketball practice, he went out on the streets to find them and bring them back for games. He not only started the program, but bummed, begged, and borrowed to get the kids' uniforms paid for, and to get the membership fees waived or reduced for those who couldn't afford to pay."

Selected as one of only 100 young people from across Washington State to participate in the Washington Leadership Institute Governor's School for Citizen Leadership, Carson was described as "one of the best products of the program."

Recipients of The Yoshiyama Award were selected by a panel of judges from confidential nominations that were submitted by school personnel, clergy, community leaders, and others affiliated with youth organizations and associations from across the country.

The Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community was established under an endowment of \$730,000 made to The Hitachi Foundation upon his retirement by Hirokichi Yoshiyama, former president and chairman of Hitachi, Ltd. The award program was developed in keeping with the Foundation's overall mission of fostering effective leadership, supporting community service, and encouraging global and social responsibility.

The Hitachi Foundation is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization that was established in 1985.

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