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Walker Named 2009 Dressel Scholarship Winner

August 31, 2009 (Atlanta) --“Getting this scholarship is a big help” said Eddie Walker, the 2009 recipient of the Ruth and Ed Dressel Scholarship. “This scholarship allowed me to get my books and keep up with class assignments. I can start (the school year) off on the right foot.”

Eddie is a sophomore at Ft. Valley State University in Ft. Valley, Georgia. He is majoring in Electrical Engineering and is making plans to attend graduate school. “I have always wanted to be an engineer. I always wanted to know how something works, why it worked or what makes it work. I remember getting remote control cars from my grandmother and taking them apart to see how they work. It was my childhood dream – my destiny – to be an engineer.”

In 1991, Dr. Paula Dressel, a sociologist, community activist and the Founding Board President of Foreverfamily (1987-1992) created the Ruth and Ed Dressel Scholarship Fund in honor of her parents. Now in its 10th year, the continuing mission of the Scholarship Fund is to encourage children of imprisoned parents to pursue a postsecondary education by providing funds that help cover the cost of textbooks. “As a longtime supporter of Foreverfamily,” says Dr. Dressel, “it seemed like the very best way to honor my parents was by giving other young people the chance that I had.”

In order to win the Dressel Scholarship, Eddie had to meet strict requirements including having a 3.0 GPA and completing a minimum of 10 hours of community service to Foreverfamily. He participated in the After School program, teen program, and Camp AIM High in addition to going on prison trips and the college tour trips.

To help ensure Eddie’s continued success at college, he has a mentor. His mentor, Jim Simmons is the Director of Development for Ft. Valley State University; in addition he was the former Director of Development at Foreverfamily. “Figuring out the world is not always easy. I look forward to helping Eddie in any way I can. Eddie is dedicated and focused – I know he will do well at FVSU.”

Dr. Dressel said, “All young people’s dreams need the opportunity to be realized. I am so glad that this scholarship opens that opportunity to help Eddie realize his dream.”

***Foreverfamily** is a non-profit community based organization that assists inmates, their children and other family members in maintaining those critically important family ties that can become strained during a parent’s incarceration. **Foreverfamily’s** efforts focus on children with an incarcerated parent or parents, caregivers and relatives as they strive to remain a family. **Foreverfamily** works to ensure that all children have the opportunity to be surrounded by the love of family. Foreverfamily is nationally headquartered in Atlanta with affiliate offices in Atlanta and Louisville, KY.*

***Fort Valley State University (FVSU)** is a historically black university (HBCU) located in Fort Valley, Georgia. The university offers bachelor's degrees in more than 50 majors—education, business administration and agriculture—as well as master's degrees in education and counseling.*

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