



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Youth Peace Olympics hosting kickoff weekend, celebrating five years of positively impacting youth**

**Baton Rouge, LA** – The Annual Youth Peace Olympics (YPO) program will kick off its fifth season on April 20 and 21 with an opening ceremony, parade, and youth summit.

On Friday, April 20, the opening ceremony will feature a variety of live entertainment including 2 is Better than 1, an award-winning gospel recording group; Alana Buckley, a soloist; and Ariel Pierre, a composer and soloist as well as author Erion Davidson of “Keep Running: How to endure when life looks impossible.” There will also be performances by a variety of praise teams. It will be held at 5:30 p.m. at BREC’s Ben Burge Recreation Center.

On Saturday, April 21, activities will begin with a parade and peace march at 9 a.m. at the recreation center followed by a Youth Summit for ages 10 to 16 at 11 a.m. at Perkins Road Community Park.

The parade will be led by our new Youth Ambassador, KT Muyaka, an accomplished musician and student at Woodlawn High School. The summit will include discussions on gun control and tips to lead a healthier, more successful lifestyle. The activities are free and open to the public.

“We’re so excited to celebrate our fifth year of positively impacting our youth and our community,” said Alma Stewart, YPO Organizer and president of the Louisiana Center for Health Equity. “We’re looking forward to continuing to mentor and help guide our youth to reach their full potential.”

The YPO is a South Baton Rouge-based program designed to help mentor and guide at-risk youth by teaching them character building skills, sportsmanship, and a commitment to peace and non-violence. It is based on a program that was founded by Rev. Mary Wade and members of the Building Respect for our Communities organization in Philadelphia.

As part of the program, youth ages 10 to 16 meet once a month from April to August to learn valuable life lessons and skills. The students also go on various field trips. Since its inception, more than 200 students have participated in the program.

For more information, go to [www.youthpeaceolympics.org](http://www.youthpeaceolympics.org).

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***About Louisiana Center for Health Equity***

*The Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) is a nonpartisan 501 (c) (3) public charity non-profit organization established in January 2010. LCHE's purpose is to promote better health outcomes for Louisiana residents who face significant barriers to being healthy with a focus on wellness and community health.*

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