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### **Bush to Speak Here At Social Service Event**

by MIKE SNYDER, Staff

President Bush will speak in Houston on Friday at an event that organizers hope will generate \$1 million to be shared by three community-based social service organizations.

They are Pyramid Community Development Corp., a nonprofit that provides social services, business opportunities and affordable housing in southwest Houston; **Fifth Ward Enrichment Program**, a tutoring and mentoring service for young men in that northeast neighborhood, and Community Partners, which provides health care to children and adolescents in the Fifth Ward and the Heights.

Bush will speak at the Power Center, a multi-service facility developed 10 years ago by Pyramid CDC in a donated former Kmart store.

When Bush, then the Texas governor, visited the Power Center in the mid-1990s, "he saw what a community-based organization can do," said the Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church and founder of Pyramid CDC.

Caldwell, who delivered the benediction at Bush's inauguration in January 2001, said the three organizations exemplify the type of community-based social service Bush supports.

In addition to the Power Center, which includes a bank branch, a medical clinic and a number of small businesses, Pyramid CDC has developed Corinthian Pointe, the nation's largest residential subdivision developed by a nonprofit agency. Most of Corinthian Pointe's 452 homes are affordable to moderate-income families.

**The Fifth Ward Enrichment Program** was founded in 1984 to assist young men at risk of dropping out of school, using drugs or becoming fathers while still in high school. The program now operates in six Fifth Ward schools.

"There are people who have come through our program who have matured and are now on our staff and giving back to the community," said Al Calloway, the **FWEP** organization's chairman.

Community Partners, founded in 1972, cares for teenage mothers' infants and tries to help them overcome problems that can inhibit their development, said chairman Floyd LeBlanc.

"We find that these infants sometimes do not develop normally because they do not get enough stimulus because their teenage parents don't know any better," LeBlanc said.

Caldwell said 800 guests are expected.