

**Non-Profit Total Sunshine, Inc. Grateful as
*Bereaved DC Parents are Still Giving Back to Youth***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2011

Washington, DC-Following the tragic death of their 14 year old son James Perkins (1994-2009), his parents James Jackson and Patricia Perkins are steadfast as ever to support youth in their academic endeavors. James Perkins was the 2009 Salutatorian for Johnson Middle School in Washington, DC. He was also the recipient of a myriad of awards in many subjects including English, Science and French. “Lil James” excelled in mathematics. In 2008, he received many awards in mathematics, including the Apangea Mathematics Award in which he became National Champion for the District of Columbia Public Schools. James Perkins was to be a recipient of Total Sunshine “rewards” at their 1st Annual Ceremony in 2009 to honor and support top graduates. TSI has remembered James Perkins with a musical tribute annually at their School Grade Rewards Ceremony since then..

James’ parents, who have lost so much in a random motor vehicle-pedestrian collision are still fully dedicated to supporting youth in school. They’ve shown this dedication since “Lil James’ “untimely death by conducting outreach for Total Sunshine, Inc. for donations and support. Last year, they contacted the President of TSI with information about First Time Computers, Inc. FTC is a DC non-profit that trains at-risk youth to refurbish computers for dissemination to persons who are in need in the community. James Perkins was one of the first recipients of a computer from FTC in its’ first year of business.

FTC made it possible for TSI to give laptop computers to DC’s top graduates for college at their 2nd Annual School Grade Rewards Ceremony. All but one of DC’s 2010 public high school Valedictorians and Salutatorians had a need for the laptops provided. Because of this outreach for support conducted by James Perkins’ parents, Total Sunshine, Inc. has a committed partner in rewarding top graduates with laptops for college.

This year the tribute to James Perkins by TSI at their annual ceremony (Anacostia Community Museum-6-23-11 at 3PM) will include the unveiling of marketing tools for the James Maurice Perkins Memorial Fund which is designated to support the TSI School Grade Incentive Program. This program facilitates TSI’s annual School Grade Rewards Ceremony. Attendance has been confirmed for several top DC city officials, representatives from the DC State Board of Education (White, Douglass, Mara), US Department of Education, and community leaders (United Black Fund President Barry LeNoir).

Two weeks ago, “Lil James”’ parents declined a \$10K donation from their attorney J. Kenneth Krivant towards a non-profit in their son’s name/honor to donate it to TSI for his memorial fund to support the TSI School Grade Incentive Program. In the past two months, they have personally donated \$6K to TSI. While James Jackson and Patricia

Perkins could have become bitter and refused to assist other youth, they have shown extraordinary resilience in their dedication to support youth who are on the road to success.

“With our mission of ‘Promoting Smiles’ at Total Sunshine, Inc., we are truly inspired by the kindness and giving spirit of James Perkins’ parents. Their positive attitudes towards helping youth did not die with their son. Their selfless actions, at the core embody the spirit of the mission of Total Sunshine, Inc. Although tragedy has brought us together, I am so glad to have met the parents of James Perkins. Their ceaseless support humbles me.”—Merilyn C. Holmes, President TSI

TSI is still gathering rewards and support for their ceremony. All donations are tax deductible and can be made online at www.totalsunshine.org For more information call Merilyn Holmes at (202) 575-0462, or e-mail TSI at: info@totalsunshine.org

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