



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coach Carter presents the "Tough Love Award" to a sexual abuse survivor who believes **'The Sky is Not the Limit'**

March 1, 2009 – Waco, Texas Coach Ken Carter, President/CEO of the Coach Carter Foundation will be presenting sexual abuse survivor Sophia A. Strother, MBA with the first annual **"Tough Love Award"**. This prestige honor is given to an individual who has shown unprecedented strength and courage dispute overwhelming odds in their lives.

Sophia endured a great tragedy as a child being molested and raped by her father, step grandfather and three strangers between the ages of 9-15. Simultaneously both parents were victims of serious drug abuse. Becoming a mother at the age of 15 and leaving her mother's home, Sophia decided not to let her circumstance dictate her future. After gathering strength from her grandmother Vivienne Adams of Springfield, MA and watching a documentary about Oprah's undying desire to live and succeed she decided not to become a statistic. Sophia graduated high school as a single parent, purchased her very own home at 20 and went on to receive her Bachelors Degree in Business Management and Masters in Marketing all by the age of 23.

Coach Ken Carter is no stranger to recognizing talent and appreciating what education and perseverance can do. It was ten years ago that he made national news when he locked out his undefeated Varsity basketball team in order to push them to improve their grades in Richmond, CA. Carter not only closed the Richmond High School gym, but he banned all basketball-related activities and was prepared to cancel the entire season program, because 15 of the 45 players were not living up to the classroom achievements they agreed to meet in contracts they signed earlier in the semester. As a result the school board overruled him and unlocked the gym only to find that none of the players wanted to return. They were in the library determined to succeed not only on the gym floor but in the classroom. Every one of the players graduated and went onto college dispute the statistic that loomed over their heads...students at Richmond High School had an 80% chance of going to jail than graduated high school. So moved in 2005 Paramount Pictures released his self titled movie "Coach Carter" starring Samuel L. Jackson and Ashanti to allow the world an opportunity to be inspired by his courage and passion to stand up for education.

Join us in congratulating Corporate Market Director of the American Heart Association and CEO of Trustworthy Consulting, Sophia A. Strother, MBA on receiving this wonderful award and publishing her first of four books that will outline her journey while inspiring millions that they can survive titled "*Sophia I'm Back!*" As she so elegantly states, **"The Sky is NOT the Limit!"**

