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Philadelphia, PA (January 15, 2009) – Rising Star Talent Search performances continue as the preliminary judging winds down.

Patrons at Sadiki's restaurant gave a majority ballot vote last Wednesday, identifying Lorence Robinson (aka, "Stash") the latest preliminary winner in OARC's Rising Star Talent Search. Singing in church since he was 8 years old, Stash forged a love for music that intensified throughout his years. He says he sings for the love of the craft, allowing those who hear him sing feel the intent of his spirit. Stash happens to be a songwriter as well and his winning selections included two original pieces, *Come Close Now* and *Only if U Let Me*. Other selections performed were, *Summer Rain* (Carl Thomas) and *So High* (John Legend).

Attributing his positive attitude to his faith, Stash maintains continuous strength in pursuing his dream and is currently working on his debut album which has an anticipated release date in May 2009.

While registration for new contestants is over, the last preliminary competition is scheduled for March 18th, 2009. All are invited to come out and root for their favorites. Semi-finals take place April 1st & 15th, May 6th and May 20th. Four finalists will compete on June 3rd. The winner will perform at the West Oak Lane Jazz & Arts Festival and will be the recipient of a \$2,500 award.

ABOUT OARC: OARC is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) community development corporation focused on community revitalization and economic development in neighborhoods throughout the Northwest area of Philadelphia. Founded in 1983 by State Representative Dwight Evens, OARC is also the executive producer of the internationally acclaimed WEST OAK LANE JAZZ & ARTS FESTIVAL (www.westoaklanefestival.com). For more information about OARC, visit www.OARCPhilly.org.

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