



(Contributed to this press release including quotes as approved by Yao Ming's representatives)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NBA Superstar Yao Ming to host Chicago fundraiser on behalf of Earthquake relief

(Chicago, IL)-May 12, 2009- The Yao Ming Foundation at The Giving Back Fund announced that NBA Superstar Yao Ming will host an exclusive cocktail party to raise money for his Foundation at Lao Beijing Restaurant on May 21, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois from 7:00-9:00 PM. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a light buffet dinner will be served. A limited number of tickets will be available to the public at \$1,000 per couple. Tickets are **tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

Proceeds will support The Yao Ming Foundation's rebuilding efforts in China in the areas affected by the May 12, 2008 earthquake. More than 80,000 people died and more than 8,000 schoolrooms were destroyed in the earthquake that devastated parts of the country's Southwest, most heavily Sichuan Province.

"Today is the anniversary of one of the worst natural disasters in my country's history. I have not forgotten the many victims and all the rebuilding work that still needs to be done. I ask you to help me in these efforts to aid the people of Sichuan Province," stated Yao Ming. "We are excited to create an intimate event in the great city of Chicago that is centered around our mission of assisting in the earthquake recovery efforts in China. There is much work left to be done."

Tickets can be purchased online at www.givingback.org or by calling Tony Hu, owner of Lao Beijing at 312-405-3155, or The Yao Ming Foundation at 310-649-5222.

The Yao Ming Foundation was established in June of 2008 by Chinese NBA Star Yao Ming in response to the devastating 8.0 earthquake in Sichuan Province, China on May 12, 2008. An 8.0 earthquake is the equivalent to energy released from 790 nuclear bombs. More than 8,000 schoolrooms and 185 schools were destroyed during the earthquake. The Yao Ming Foundation has so far committed to rebuilding five schools in the earthquake region. The new earthquake resistant schools will provide top level education for more than

1000 students, many of whom will also board at the schools. For more information on The Yao Ming Foundation at The Giving Back Fund, please visit www.theyaomingfoundation.org.

About The Giving Back Fund

The Giving Back Fund (GBF), established in 1997, seeks to cultivate and nurture a new group of philanthropists within the sports and entertainment communities and to help establish role models who will inspire others to give back. GBF provides philanthropic consulting, management and programs to athletes, entertainers, entrepreneurs, and other high net worth individuals aimed at increasing the impact of their philanthropy. GBF is launching several new programs to help ensure that new generations of sports and entertainment professionals learn how to be effective and powerful philanthropists.

With offices in Boston and Los Angeles, The Giving Back Fund has worked successfully with more than 100 professional athletes, entertainers, and business entrepreneurs, helping them achieve their philanthropic goals. The Giving Back Fund has overseen the distribution of millions of dollars in charitable grants, programs, and scholarships. While The Giving Back Fund has developed special expertise in providing philanthropic consulting to athletes and entertainers, its services are available to anyone committed to increasing the impact of their philanthropy.

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