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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2008 - 2009 Young Minds Digital Times™ Film Competition – Winners Announced

Houston, TX – February 13, 2009 - The Young Minds Digital Times Film Competition is pleased to announce the Grand Prize Winners in our first annual film competition. Justin Rightmer of Manor New Tech High School, Manor, Texas won the Grand Prize in the Young Filmmakers “Doing Good” track for his public service announcement, *Piracy*. Rightmer drew attention to the chronic problem of piracy and copyright violation among teens while drawing a laugh from judges. One judge expressed, “I liked the creativity used to express this message; this film really used some originality.”

In the Young Filmmakers Freeform Tack, the music video *Wake Up*, by Rainer Herrera of Miami Coral Park Senior High, Miami, Florida claimed the Grand Prize. Herrera utilized stop-motion filmmaking to create his intriguing visuals. Competition judge and Emmy winning director Michael Franzini commented, “The films were all good, but Wake Up was fantastic. This kid will go far.”

The final judging panel consisted of ten professional judges with insight into film making and youth culture. The judges were unanimously impressed by the films they viewed and hoped participants would continue to seek out opportunities to learn and improve their film making. Nine additional Category Winners and Judge’s Choice Awards were also announced by the Competition. The winning filmmakers represent nine different schools and were joined by over 700 other individuals throughout the competition’s process. A complete list of award winners is available at [www.youngmindsdigitaltimes.com](http://www.youngmindsdigitaltimes.com).

“We wanted to offer this innovative competition because students have asked us to give them venues to share their ideas, showcase their work and solve real-life issues,” said competition co-founder Amy Looper of OneSeventeen Media. “Additionally, kids tell us they’re interested in promoting social good, so we’ve created a unique way for them to “do good” using their digital talents. Kids have a lot to say and interesting ideas to share; they frequently wonder why adults don’t get that about them! We are incredibly proud of our winners and appreciative of the many young people who took the time to participate. We’re excited to expand the competition and options for youth filmmakers next year, and we hope they will all choose to join us again.”

#### About OneSeventeen Media

OneSeventeen Media, Inc. creates opportunities for kids to share their voices and validate their opinions. We know kids are smart, savvy technology users. Our mission is to provide relevant tools to help them navigate their environment in a respectful, responsible and confident way to become successful, productive members of society. As a company formed by social venture entrepreneurs, OneSeventeen Media’s corporate philosophy is building a culture of “doing good and doing well” internally as well as in our community. Through this commitment, we’re honored to co-produce the Young Minds Digital Times Film Competition in partnership with Manor New Tech High School. For more information, visit the film competition web site at [www.youngmindsdigitaltimes.com](http://www.youngmindsdigitaltimes.com) or OneSeventeen Media’s blog at [www.one-seventeen-media.wordpress.com](http://www.one-seventeen-media.wordpress.com).

#### About Manor New Tech High School

Manor New Technology High School (MNTHS) has a mission to prepare students for the global society through the articulation of mathematics, science and technology. MNTHS strives to provide a rigorous, well-rounded education with an emphasis in mathematics, science and technology core curriculums; establish a personalized college and work ready culture that promotes increased post-secondary educational opportunities; provide innovative instructional focus for teachers and leadership; and strengthen the community involvement in order to create partnerships for programs and internship opportunities for students and teachers. Project-based learning (PBL) is the major vehicle of instruction and is based on the fact that students learn better when they see relevance of skills or content. Learn more about MNTHS at [www.manorisd.net/newtech](http://www.manorisd.net/newtech).

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