

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bethany House Publishers / Ripe Harvest Foundation

Ain't No Valley

Essay Contest Underway

BALTIMORE, MD, July 20, 2005 — The Ripe Harvest Foundation and Bethany House Publishers announce the *Ain't No Valley/Get Lifted* Essay Contest. Contestants should read the newly published novel *Ain't No Valley* by award-winning author Sharon Ewell Foster, released by Bethany House August 1, 2005.

Ain't No Valley is a funky, soulful, and inspiring novel about new beginnings and learning to rise above adversity to glean the best of life. Sprinkled with Foster's signature style of humor, this stand-alone contemporary novel will appeal across age, gender, and cultural distinctives.

To celebrate *Ain't No Valley's* release, The Ripe Harvest and Bethany House will award four \$1,000 scholarships and one \$1,500 award. Scholarships will be awarded in two age groups, 16-21 years and over 21 years of age.

Entrants should submit an essay (maximum 1,000 words) after reading *Ain't No Valley*. Essays must answer the following question:

Describe the character you most identified with and how that character sought and found a new beginning in life. Now, describe your personal situation and the plan you have for a new beginning.

Essays should be typed, double-spaced, and should include the entrant's address, telephone number, email address, name and age. Completed essays must be postmarked by midnight January 7, 2006 and mailed to:

Ripe Harvest Foundation, Inc.
Ain't No Valley/Get Lifted
PO Box 10402
Baltimore, MD 21209

Winners will be announced in March 2006.

For additional information about the contest and the book, please visit www.bethanyhouse.com/aintnovalley or phone The Ripe Harvest Foundation at 410-542-5144.

Bethany House Publishers, a division of Baker Publishing Group, has been publishing high-quality books for 50 years. Recognized as the pioneer and leader in Christian fiction, Bethany House publishes nearly 120 titles each year, and Bethany House titles are often found on the Christian bestseller lists.

The Ripe Harvest Foundation is an African-American arts and letters organization devoted to providing access to and developing an appreciation for the literary, visual and performing arts. The Ripe Harvest Foundation emphasizes strong reading and artistic skill proficiencies essential for learning, goal setting and achievement.

Media Contact: Brett Benson

bbenson@bethanyhouse.com

PH 952-829-2529

 **BETHANYHOUSE**

11400 Hampshire Avenue S. • Minneapolis, MN 55438 • www.bethanyhouse.com