

## For Immediate Release

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## Former Resident and Recording Artist Phil Perry to Visit Cunningham Children's Home

November 19, 2003 (Urbana, Illinois)— Officials at Cunningham Children's Home today announced that former Cunningham resident Phil Perry would visit the children's home on Friday morning, November 21. Perry is a soul and jazz songwriter and recording artist from Los Angeles who will be in Champaign-Urbana to perform at the Urban League's Annual Gala.

Phil Perry grew up in East St. Louis and lived at Cunningham Children's Home for two years as a teenager in the late 1960's. From his childhood days singing gospel music with his mother to his first professional work with the 70's soul group the Montclairs, Perry has become known for his musical versatility. Perry has recorded five albums/CDs which include *Heart of the Man*, *Pure Pleasure*, *One Heart*, *One Love*, *My Book of Love* and *Magic*. Perry's most common subject to sing about is love because "whatever era of time we're talking about, people will always want to hear great love songs," he explains.

While at Cunningham Children's Home, Perry will visit with Cunningham youth who are interested in music and he will tour the Cunningham campus and learn how it has changed since he left as teenager. "We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for our youth at Cunningham to meet a former resident who has not only done well in his chosen field of music, but who has also been very successful in his personal life despite a rough childhood," said Cunningham Children's Home President/CEO Sam Banks. "We are delighted to welcome Phil back to Cunningham and believe he will be very inspirational for our youth and our staff members."

On an annual basis, Cunningham Children's Home provides residential treatment services and supportive independent living programs for over 250 children and youth with a range of behavioral and emotional disorders. Cunningham Children's Home is a mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

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