

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE: **13 year old launches novel for TEENS, Greater Expectations on January 27, 2008**

James Valitchka's first novel, *Greater Expectations*, gives teens **HOPE** and **STRENGTH** in the midst of **cyber bullying, teen pregnancy, teen homelessness, child abuse, teen suicide, racism, class divisions in education**. *Greater Expectations* is a heroic story meant to openly relay the realistic challenges teens face today and inspire them to have the courage to rise above and succeed in spite of it all.

**SUMMARY: A heroic multicultural story about believing in yourself and others and triumphing over tragedy.** George is a 13 year old hard working bi-racial boy with huge dreams that are bigger than his life in the projects with an alcoholic mother. His life changes when his Aunt Sari helps him get a scholarship to an Ivy League school. Once there, he faces new types of challenges from a community who won't accept him or Sid, a Filipino kid with big dreams also. George is in love with a girl from the projects named Samantha, but her abusive uncle threatens their friendship. Then there's Emmanuel, the broken kid, whose hooked on drugs and living on the streets and Gina, his 13 year old classmate who find out she is pregnant. Can George keep his scholarship, overcome his challenges and save his friends at the same time?

### **BIOGRAPHY**

James Valitchka is a 13 year old best selling author and motivational speaker, who has traveled through Canada, the United States and South America with his uplifting message of hope and determination for everyone regardless of their circumstances. James was raised by a single mom who encouraged him to read and write. His first best selling novel "*Superheroes Don't Have Dads*" was published when he was just 8 years old and he went on to write 6 more children's books, including his multicultural best seller "*I'm Not Brown I'm Human*". James' first published novel, *Greater Expectations* was written by James when he was 12 years old. James went on to create the annual *Literacy Can Change Lives student conferences*, which takes place in various cities each year. James also won the *Top 20 Under 20 Award* when he was 10 and *Free the Children's Me To We community service award* when he was 12. James says there were times when he was writing *Greater Expectations* that tears came to his eyes but he kept writing because he wanted to share both the pain and the joy of the many children and teenagers he met during his travels. ***Greater Expectations* is a story of courage and hope.** James believes that children and teenagers can change the world and make a difference in a powerful and meaningful way. He hopes that *Greater Expectations* will encourage children and youth to speak out about their challenges so changes can be made and help can be given. James believes that "Silence is our enemy" and has named one of the chapters of the book after this belief.

**DATES & CITIES OF BOOK LAUNCH & READINGS:** **TORONTO:** Jan. 27, 08: 1:00p.m.. Ontario Black History Lunch, Harbour Castle Westin, **TORONTO:** Jan. 28, 08: 11:00 a.m Carleton Village Public School, **SUDBURY:** Feb. 4, 08:10:00 a.m. Landsdowne Public School, **MONTREAL Feb. 6, 08:** 9:00 a.m. Jewish Federation of Canadian Teachers Conference 9:00a.m. to 10:30 Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue - 4894 St. Kevin Avenue, **MONTREAL:** 11:00 to 11:45 Herzliah High School,- 4840 St. Kevin Avenue. **OTTAWA:** Feb. 19, 08 African Canadian Diaspora Lunch, 1:00 p.m. 165 Sparks Street. **HALIFAX: March 26, 08, 11:00** Parkwest School: Diversity and Inclusion Conference for Students **HALIFAX:** March 27,08: 11:00: Dalhousie University: Literacy Can Change Lives Student Conference.

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