



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BLACK BELT BASKETBALLERS HOSTING FUND-RAISING PASTA DINNER

VALLEJO – A unique group of basketball players are asking Vallejoans to help make a trip to Korea a reality.

Black Belt Basketball is the world's first and only Basketball Dojo, or youth club. Founded in Vallejo, the club is for boys and girls K through 10th grade. The mission of the organization is to use basketball to help kids discover life's fundamentals and help them become successful renaissance athletes. A martial arts philosophy is applied to basketball, emphasizing personal improvement, character and effort. No one is ever turned away, with 10 to 20 percent of participants receiving scholarships.

This summer the dojo has been invited to bring 20 members to Jincheon, Korea (the birth place of Tae kwon do and Vallejo's Sister City) for a weeklong cultural and athletic exchange. While there, the group will represent Vallejo (as well as the USA) in opening ceremonies of a very large Tae kwon do festival featuring youth from 55 nations.

During the week Vallejo's Black Belt Basketball Dojo will conduct basketball camps for the children of Jincheon, participate in a handful of exhibition games, site see and soak up a different culture.

To help finance the trip, Black Belt Basketball is holding a pasta dinner at 6:30 p.m. on May 7 at McCormack Hall on the Solano County Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Children under 3 are free.

Along with a pasta dinner, a raffle will be held followed by entertainment. All proceeds from the event will go toward sending a group of 20 boys to Korea on June 17 thru the 26, which has been declared Black Belt Basketball week by the Vallejo City Council.

Upon their return to Vallejo, a two-week basketball camp will be held with children from Korea. Please call (707) 479-6081 to purchase tickets or for more information on Black Belt Basketball.