

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**KATRINA KIDS TO ATTEND AMERICAN IDOL
FOR THEIR WORK IN HELPING FIGHT MALARIA**

Children Saw Their Town Devastated, Yet Raised Almost \$1,000 For Kids In Africa

April 10, 2007 — Los Angeles, CA—Nine kids who saw their entire town devastated by Hurricane Katrina will attend American Idol on April 10, in recognition of the nearly \$1,000 they raised to help African kids fight malaria.

The children, aged 12-17, are members of Boys & Girls Club in Pass Christian, MS, a tiny town on an exposed peninsula on the Gulf of Mexico that was all but leveled by Hurricane Katrina. Many lost family members in the storm. All saw their clubhouse, once bustling with after-school activity, reduced to rubble.

“After Katrina, we had to worry about mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus,” said Monae Howard, a 13 year-old member of the group. “I can’t imagine what it would be like for the kids in Africa, who have to worry every day about a mosquito bite that could kill them from Malaria.”

The children, who faced the threat of mosquito-borne illness after Hurricane Katrina, teamed up with a national campaign run by the Boys & Girls Club of America campaign called “Malaria Prevention: Deadly Disease, Simple Solution.” Run in partnership with Malaria No More, an organization that seeks to engage individuals and the private sector in the fight against malaria, the project aims to build awareness and encourage fundraising for \$10 bed nets among all 4.6 million Club members nationwide.

The Pass Christian chapter raised \$950 by holding a “Malaria No More” walk on Martin Luther King Day this January. The funds raised will purchase 95 insecticide treated bed nets for children in Africa.

“I wanted the kids to experience having the initiative to help someone else,” said Jackie McGee, Pass Christian Boys and Girls Club Director. “It was a holiday for us and I wanted it to be a ‘day on’ on our ‘day off.’ It was a walk for kids, all kids.”

In celebration of the kids’ generosity, the twelve members of the Pass Christian Club will travel to Los Angeles this week to see the April 10 episode of American Idol, and go backstage after the show.

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