

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GULF COAST- NEW HOPE PROGRAM AWARDED
DISNEY'S FRIENDS FOR CHANGE GRANT TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Grant supports environmental initiatives that culminate on Global Youth Service Day

[PASCAGOULA/MISSISSIPPI/SOUTHERN REGION/UNITED STATES] – [4/19/10] – Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast- New Hope Program was one of 75 successful applicants around the world to receive a \$500 Disney's Friends for Change grant supporting youth-led environmental initiatives for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), the largest service event in the world, April 23-25. Disney's Friends for Change: Project Green (www.disney.com/projectgreen) is a program that encourages young people to take steps together with their friends to help the planet. The grants, administered by Youth Service America (YSA), offer youth the resources they need to bring environmental initiatives to life for their local communities.

Each Disney's Friends for Change grant recipient participating in GYSD will join the thousands of projects and millions of youth who work to make their communities a better place. The funded service projects will address a broad range of environmental issues including clean water, creating community gardens, and raising awareness about renewable energy.

The project, entitled "Recycling to Rebuild," will take place at the Pascagoula Opportunity Center on April 23rd from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day. Students will write letters to United States Congressmen representing Mississippi about saving the planet as part of their Science lesson for the day. Additionally, students who have earned their spot as a volunteer will paint recycling receptacles and eat pizza during their physical education time. These painted containers will be placed throughout the school and at local businesses to collect aluminum cans. On May 13th, the aluminum cans will be redeemed at a local recycling center and the money collected will be sent to the American Red Cross for the Haiti Relief Effort. We hope that through this project the students at the Pascagoula Opportunity Center will develop a sense of community and empathy for others.

"This is a wonderful chance for the students of the Pascagoula Opportunity Center to set an example of humanitarianism and to pay forward the assistance the Mississippi Gulf Coast received following Hurricane Katrina. The lessons they will learn about community service and environmental awareness are valuable to character development and will travel with them throughout their lives. This Disney Friends for Change grant will be an exciting, rewarding project for the students."- Jaime Parker, Project Coordinator

"Youth around the world care a great deal about the environment," said Steve Culbertson, YSA president and CEO. "Disney's Friends for Change grants are providing thousands of young people an opportunity to address those environmental issues that are the most pressing in their communities. And participating in Global Youth Service helps raise awareness of how children and youth are working towards creating a healthier planet."

For more information about the Disney Friends for Change Grants, visit Disney.com/projectgreen.
