

Unified Summer Grants Collaborative



United Way for the
Greater New Orleans Area



For Immediate Release

Summer Camps and Programs Kick Off for Thousands of Kids

While Some Prepare for Hurricane Season, Others Prepare for Academic Future

- WHO:** The **Unified Summer Grants Collaborative** partners **United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, Emeril Lagasse Foundation, Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership, The Wallace Foundation, Capital One, Meadows Foundation and New Orleans Recreational Department (NORD.)**
- WHAT:** Announce funding to 51 summer programs totaling more than \$1.3 million and serving more than 10,500 low-income children and youth in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and St. Charles Parishes.
- WHEN:** **Monday, June 1, 2009**
1:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** **Grace Child Center**
3700 Canal Street
- WHY:** Research shows that two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. Summer is an important time for children and youth to experience new teaching techniques and environments that may encourage deeper learning and greater retention of information.

Camp activities, including programs focusing on literacy, sports, the arts, and hurricane preparedness, benefit children and youth ranging from 4-18 years of age. These programs are designed to give participants access to fun, safe and educational activities while schools are out of session, and develop skills that will help them become successful, engaged adults.

One such program, Creative Forces Youth Educational Theater Corps, uses performing arts to help young people grow into successful and caring adults and professionals. Participants in the program learn to use their skills in acting, singing, dancing and writing to become teachers and role models for younger children. Graduates from the Creative Forces program will perform excerpts from their repertoire of educational plays and concerts for summer campers at Grace Child Center.

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