



**San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales and Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard  
Celebrate Amazing Kids!**

*Young Dancers Brighten Holiday Season for Katrina Survivor Pen Pals*

**December 25, 2005** (San Jose, CA) — Action Day/Primary Plus Schools (ADNPP) announced today that Ron Gonzales, Mayor of San Jose, CA and Aaron Broussard, President of Jefferson Parish, LA have united in honoring the young members of the *Amazing Kids! Pen Pals for Hurricane Survivors Program*. Amazing Kids!, a children's educational non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids realize their potential, launched the *Amazing Kids! Pen Pals for Hurricane Survivors Program* in mid-September in response to the recent devastating hurricanes in the Gulf region. The participants, dance students, kindergarten through fourth grade, from Action Day/Primary Plus Schools' Dance Academy and student hurricane survivors at Estelle Elementary school in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana are being recognized for assisting survivors with their emotional recovery and for their courage weathering Katrina.

"I'm proud that children in our community have reached out to make a big difference in the lives of those who have been victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes," said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. "The touching testimonials from these young people are another reminder that we are all neighbors in this nation and that every one of us can help when times are tough in other communities. On behalf of San Jose, I salute the courage of the students and families of Marrero and commend our local children for their thoughtful contributions to help others less fortunate."

The Estelle students wrote the ADNPP dancers describing their hardships and shared with them "The Hurricane Chronicles," a series of touching written testimonials of amazing young heroes from Estelle who survived Katrina. The ADNPP dancers wrote back letters of good cheer and hopeful wishes and as a tribute to the young survivors they dedicated their Christmas in the Park tree (#88 in downtown San Jose) to their pen pals at Estelle on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The tree was decorated with ornaments made from 58 laminated versions of the dancer's letters and copies of the highly moving "Hurricane Chronicles," as well as 60 decorated children's tap, ballet and jazz shoes. After the ornaments are removed, the shoes will be given to their Estelle pen pals as mementos.

"I applaud the young dancers from Action Day/Primary Plus Schools' Dance Academy for helping their Estelle pen pals recover emotionally from the trauma brought by Katrina. I would also like to congratulate the *Amazing Kids! Pen Pals for Hurricane Survivors Program* for empowering these dance students to help our young survivors feel less alone and afraid during the holiday season and for helping bring attention to the problems our kids have faced," said Jefferson Parish President, Aaron Broussard.



“Once the immediate physical needs of the survivors have been taken care of, we are finding that many of them have some longer-term emotional needs which need to be met,” said Alyse Rome, Amazing Kids! founder and president. “Having a new friend and pen pal with whom they can share their thoughts, feelings and experiences can help a young survivor feel less alone and afraid, especially in new, unfamiliar surroundings. We hope our *Pen Pal* program will be one small way to help them.”

### **About Amazing Kids! Pen Pals**

Information and the registration form for the *Pen Pals* program is on the Amazing Kids! website at: [www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html](http://www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html). Teachers, parents, students or youth groups, as well as families affected by the hurricanes and relief agencies are invited to register children for the program.

Amazing Kids! is a Los Angeles-based children's educational non-profit organization under the umbrella of Community Partners ([www.communitypartners.org](http://www.communitypartners.org)). Their mission is to help them realize their own amazing potential. Their Amazing Mentors! program, which includes the Pen Pal program, matches children with either peer mentors, or adult mentors who are professional working in a field that interests the child. The Amazing Kids! website ([www.amazing-kids.org](http://www.amazing-kids.org)) is the *number one* website for both “kids’ contests” and for stories about “amazing kids,” out of over 5 million possible websites, based on Google rankings. The website is also a highly regarded educational resource for educators and educational publishers from around the globe, and is frequented by journalists and other media professionals interested in covering the amazing achievements of children and teens.

Additional information on the *Pen Pals* program available at: [www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html](http://www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html) or by contacting Amazing Kids! at: [info@amazing-kids.org](mailto:info@amazing-kids.org).

### **About Action Day Primary Plus Schools**

Action Day Primary Plus operates nine South Bay Area schools, providing infant care, preschool, private elementary and middle school, as well as academic classes (K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) with extended day care. Founded in 1968 by Carole and John Freitas, Action Day Primary Plus has 3,250 children enrolled and 535 employees.

The founding philosophy of Action Day Primary Plus resonates throughout all 17 programs: providing personalized care givers that encourage creativity and curiosity within a mix of structured and free play environments. The focus is on learning and positive development in happy and healthy surroundings.



In August, 2005, Action Day Primary Plus Schools were honored by the reader's of *Bay Area Parent* in three categories, including: "Best Daycare/Nursery Schools," Best Private School," and "Best Dance Program." The results were published in the "Best of the Best Book," Silicon Valley edition.

More information about Action Day Primary Plus Schools can be found at [www.actiondayprimaryplus.com](http://www.actiondayprimaryplus.com)

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