



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2007

Contact: Kenny Emson
202 263 4779
kemson@cfncr.org

Laura Bush Foundation Announces \$502,000 in Grants To Gulf Coast School Libraries

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries announced today \$502,000 in Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative grants to fourteen schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. These grantees are in addition to the forty schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Texas that have received awards since May of last year, making total grants of over \$2.5 million in the first eleven months of the initiative.

"For the children affected by Hurricane Katrina, returning to their own schools is an essential step towards recovery. At the center of each school is the library, whose books entertain, inspire and spark the imagination of countless students. These grants are filling school libraries throughout the Gulf Coast with exciting, up-to-date books," said Mrs. Bush.

Many schools in the Gulf Coast region were destroyed or severely damaged by the 2005 hurricanes, and part of the destruction was the loss of the schools' libraries. As a response to Mrs. Bush's concern for the students of these affected schools, the Laura Bush Foundation established a special fund to help re-establish the book collections for the school libraries.

Grantees announced today include:

- Alice M. Harte Charter School, New Orleans, LA
- Beach Elementary School – Pascagoula, MS
- Edna Karr High School – New Orleans, LA
- Erath High School – Erath, LA
- Erath Middle School – Erath, LA
- Forked Island – E. Broussard Elementary School – Abbeville, LA
- Holy Cross School – New Orleans, LA
- J.F. Gauthier Elementary School – St. Bernard, LA
- N.P. Trist Middle School – Meraux, LA
- Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy – Jefferson, LA
- Pine Jr./Sr. High School – Franklinton, LA
- Sophie B. Wright Charter Middle School – New Orleans, LA
- Seventh Ward Elementary School – Abbeville, LA
- St. Ville Accelerated Academy for High School Preparation – Harvey, LA

Attending the announcement at Holy Cross School with Mrs. Bush and representatives of the grantee schools was James Schiro, CEO of Zurich Financial Services, title sponsor of this week's Zurich Classic of New Orleans PGA TOUR event. Zurich is supporting the LBF's Gulf Coast

School Library Recovery Initiative through the “Birdies for Books” program by donating \$100 for every birdie made during tournament. Zurich joins other corporations, foundations and individuals whose generosity has provided thousands of books to Gulf Coast students and school libraries.

The Foundation continues to accept applications at www.laurabushfoundation.org. Schools that lost book collections or schools that are being built in the areas affected by the 2005 hurricanes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas are encouraged to apply.

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