

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMPASSIONATE KIDS RAISE FUNDS FOR KATRINA RELIEF

Sweetie's Flea Market on US 19 & 41
Saturday, September 10, 2005
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Adults aren't the only ones trying to help those devastated by the losses associated with hurricane Katrina. A group of kids are making their contributions as well.

Compassionate Kidssm is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping teach children compassion towards the Earth, people, and animals. In response to the incredible needs of so many victims of hurricane Katrina, Compassionate Kids club members have organized a "Disaster Relief Flea Market Fundraiser" to be held this Saturday, September 10th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The event is scheduled to take place at Sweetie's Flea Market, a favorite local flea market located on US 19 & 41 about seven miles north of Griffin. Sweetie's, which is under new management, has offered to donate the space to the group for this special event.

"We're asking individuals to donate any merchandise for the sale, such as used books, furniture, clothes, toys, etc.," said Kelly Palmatier, founder of Compassionate Kids. "It doesn't matter how many or how few items you have; every little bit helps."

Items should be dropped off at the Compassionate Kids fundraising booth between 8:00 and 9:00 in the morning prior to the sale. If possible, items should be pre-marked with price tags.

One hundred percent of the sale proceeds as well as all remaining unsold merchandise will go to the Salvation Army to benefit those affected by hurricane Katrina. A representative from Griffin's local Salvation Army, located at 725 Meriwether Street, will be available at the end of the sale to transport all unsold merchandise.

"I really do wish that more organizations would contribute like this one has," said Paula Lewis, who works for the local Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. "The Katrina storm victims really are very grateful."

Since the start of the organization in 2004, members of Compassionate Kids have reached out to others in need as well, organizing a canned food drive for the local Five Loaves & Two Fish Food Pantry located at 125 N. Tenth Street, collecting and compiling goods for senior citizen gift baskets, and going on field trips to learn about compassion-oriented issues such as animal rescue and environmentalism. Membership is free and is available online at www.compassionatekids.com.

"Some people may think of this event as small scale. After all, it's just a flea market booth for a day," said Palmatier. "But when you get children involved in helping others, the whole community benefits in the long run."

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