

Bass Tournament to Raise Money for St. Jude & JCCSC

August 22nd, 2007

Gautier-- On Saturday August 25th, dozens of South Mississippi anglers will be throwing out a line for a cause—to help fundraise for two non-profit organizations. Both St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Jackson County Community Services Coalition (JCCSC) will be splitting half of the money raised from the 2nd Annual Bass Tournament held in their names at the Little River Marina in Escatawpa.

JCCSC director Jim Yancey says last year the Coalition made \$2600 and spent the money on the *Explorer* program. This year, the coalition's portion of the money will go to help fund Katrina mental health counseling and home repair efforts. "We hope knowing where the money is going will help us reel in the good anglers," Yancey added, "Most fishermen love to fish for no reason, so when you give them a reason to fish, there's no excuse for not taking part."

Coordinators are expecting a crowd bigger than last year with some 1000 people; most of those will be on land enjoying the good food, fun, and entertainment while the anglers are out on the Pascagoula River competing with their rod and reels for winnings. The other half of the money raised not going to the charities will be split among the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place fishermen.

Event coordinators expect a great turnout, but fear the only thing that may keep people away will be extreme heat.

"Yeah, it's going to be hot outside, but there's going to be plenty of drinks to cool everyone down," tournament sponsor Frankie Brown said, "We're going to be serving some good Southern food and rocking to some great music. We have five local bands scheduled to play -- *Lookin 4 Juice, Centre Stage, R.B. Tolar, Richie Jones, and Lightnin Strikes.*"

"There's going to be plenty for everyone to do," said Crystal Henley, tournament coordinator for JCCSC, "We're planning to have door prizes and raffles. The Magnolia Classic Cruisers are even bringing their antique cars."

The 2nd Annual St. Jude & Jackson County Community Services Coalition Bass Tournament blast off will be at safe light from the Little River Marina (former Riverbend Marina) in Escatawpa. Weigh-in is at 3pm. The music starts around noon and will continue until 9pm.

"If you love to fish, bring your boat. If you don't, come anyways," Yancey said, "This will be a great event for the entire family."

Event sponsors include Little River Marina, Brown Finance, and Marathon Printing. For more information contact Crystal Henley at 219-2886 or Frankie Brown at 762-4344.
