

# SAINTS REOPEN THE NFL YET CENTER and BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS

*Rita Benson LeBlanc to present check for \$100,000 to replenish center resources*

**For Immediate Release:** September 19, 2006

The New Orleans Saints and the staff of the NFL Youth Education Town will reopen the neighborhood educational facility at 1140 S. Broad St. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006 at 4 p.m. Owner/Executive Vice President **Rita Benson LeBlanc** and Saints players – including QB **Drew Brees** and RB **Deuce McAllister** – will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony and tour the rebuilt building.

In the past, the NFL/YET Center met the community's needs by providing educational assistance, job training, technical education, life skills development and recreational outlets for disadvantaged youth. All services were discontinued when Hurricane Katrina dumped four feet of water on the facility causing nearly \$1 million in damage.

“NFL Yet centers are an important legacy that we leave in Super Bowl cities. This site is of tremendous value to our city as we bring back important services which help families and communities,” said Benson LeBlanc. “This facility will be able to offer a myriad of services including youth programs, computer access, recreation and a venue for new programs. The Saints are proud to bring this facility back to the people of New Orleans.”

The 8,500 square foot facility will feature a new, state-of-the-art game room, computer hub center, computer technology lab, multimedia arts center, and a children's library. The center is also in the preliminary stages of developing a playground and picnic area.

“By 2008, our vision is to become the most respected youth organization in the region,” said **Bobby Lee Smith**, President of the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana. “Having this facility reopen is the first step in that direction. We provide programs that build character, through guidance in behavior and attitude in a safe environment. The YET center is the facility that fosters those efforts for the youth who need it the most.”

In March of 2006, a group of Saints players joined the Kenner Police Department, the rebuilding show “HomeTeam”, Americorp, Coastal Waste Management and "Hands-On" removed damaged equipment and gutted the facility in preparation for the renovations