

Press Release  
For Immediate Attention  
December 10, 2004



### **Public School Parents Pleased with Produce Packs**

The New Orleans Public School Superintendent's Parent Forum was held today at the Pavilion of the Two Sisters in City Park. More than 250 parents and community members gathered to hear Superintendent Amato share the successes and future plans for their kids and the city's schools.

As part of an effort to encourage New Orleans families to eat more fruits and vegetables Step Together New Orleans, Second Harvest Food Bank and the NOPS Office of Parental and Community Involvement teamed up to distribute 270 bags of food containing 900 lbs of fresh potatoes, 900 lbs of onions and 1050 lbs of mixed lettuces to all of the parent and community attendees.

Second Harvest Food Bank sponsored the fresh seasonal vegetables, Step Together New Orleans created an educational newsletter that highlighted the food's nutritional value with matching healthy recipes, while the Office of Parental and Community Involvement provided the gift bags and manpower necessary to distribute these healthy and edible parting gifts to the attendees.

This collaborative effort was the pilot launch of a series of distributions. Seasonal vegetable and fruit bags will be distributed at all four Superintendent/Parent forums scheduled for 2005. The next forum has been set for February 18, 2005. For more information about the forum, contact the Office of Parental and Community Involvement at 304-5555.

**Step Together New Orleans** (*Steps*) is a community-based, public health initiative created to help New Orleanians live longer, healthier lives by reducing the burden of asthma, diabetes and obesity. A primary strategy of this initiative is to address two related risk factors – physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

**Step Together New Orleans**, a partnership of Louisiana Public Health Institute and the City of New Orleans Health Department, will implement a five-year community action plan to reduce health disparities and promote quality health care and prevention services.

The City of New Orleans was one of the initial seven large cities chosen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2003 to be part of the **Steps to a HealthierUS** initiative.

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For information about **Steps** visit the web site at [www.steptogethernola.org](http://www.steptogethernola.org) or call 301-9838.

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**Please scroll down for pictures.**



**From Left:**  
**Thelma French**, from the NOPS Office of Parental and Community Involvement, **Brian Greene** from the Second Harvest Food Bank, and **Erica Johnson** from Step Together New Orleans.

**The three organizations came together to pilot a fresh produce give-a-way at the recent Superintendent's Parent Forum in City Park.**



**More than 250 parents and community members received fresh produce bags provided by Second Harvest Food Bank.**



**Give-a-Way Bags included educational materials, salad bags, fresh potatoes and onions.**