



## **NFL COMMITS A MINIMUM OF \$1 MILLION TO YOUTH & HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA**

New York (December 13, 2005) –The National Football League and NFL Players Association, through the NFL Youth Football Fund (YFF), will contribute a minimum of \$1,000,000 toward youth and high school football program relief efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi, and other affected areas of the Gulf Coast region, it was announced today.

The NFL Youth Football Fund Board met late last week and approved the Gulf Coast grant at its regularly scheduled session held in Orlando held in conjunction with the Pop Warner Super Bowl.

For the past several weeks, NFL officials have been working with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, Mississippi High School Activities Association, and other Gulf Region athletic associations to determine the needs of youth and high school football programs affected by the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The \$1 million donation will help revitalize damaged fields, replace lost equipment and uniforms, and address other needs. In the coming months, area athletic organizations, with the help of the YFF, will survey local programs to determine which are in the most need.

“Young people in hurricane-affected areas have lost many things that were a part of their daily lives, including sports and recreational activities,” said NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** and NFLPA Executive Director **GENE UPSHAW** in a joint statement. “Our hope is that our support of the youth and high school athletic organizations in the Gulf Region will help return a sense of normalcy to the community.”

“Football and other athletic programs in Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Region have experienced tremendous loss and are in desperate need of revitalization,” said Louisiana High School Athletic Association Commissioner **TOMMY HENRY**. “This donation from the National Football League will help us rebuild football programs that have traditionally brought our communities together.”

With this latest donation, NFL owners, teams, players, and fans collectively have contributed a total of \$22 million to Hurricane Katrina relief.

Established in 1998 by the NFL in collaboration with the NFL Players Association, the NFL Youth Football Fund promotes positive youth development, while insuring the health and future of football at the youth level. The fund has supported numerous programs aimed at strengthening America’s youth football movement.

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