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KIDS KEEP THEIR COMMUNITY CLEAN

LONG BEACH, CA., April 20, 2009 – Students of the Northpointe After-School Program will be cleaning up their community at the first ever “Great Garbage-A-Thon”. In this fundraising event, students and staff will collect pledges and sponsors, similar to a walk-a-thon. Instead of running laps, students will be picking up trash at McKinley School – Mural Area on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 3:30pm.

The Northpointe After School Program is a full-service, year round program run by the non-profit organization, Long Beach Blast. The program serves over 60 children and families who are residents of the low-income community, Northpointe Apartments. The children served are from very low-income households, where 96% live in a single parent home. The program aims to provide academic support and quality enrichment opportunities in a fun and safe environment.

The after-school program addresses the growing number of youth who find themselves with nowhere to go after school. Research shows that it is during these hours that children are more at-risk of committing crimes or having crimes committed against them.

With the help and support of Northpointe owner, Las Palmas Foundation, service entity, C.A.R.E., and other partners, we are able to provide our services for **free**. However, due to recent budget cuts our program is currently in jeopardy. We are hoping to raise funds that will help with the costs of daily snacks, homework assistance, one-on-one mentoring, PeaceBuilders Conflict Resolution Activities, literacy tutoring, computer technology skills, swimming lessons, field trips and more.

Long Beach BLAST (Better Learning After School Today) is a nonprofit organization improving after school learning for at-risk children and youth through collaboration. BLAST is dedicated to providing skilled and caring volunteers to act as academic or enrichment mentors, enhancing academic and enrichment opportunities for children at-risk for school failure, and supporting the social and emotional growth of children K-12.

Las Palmas Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit housing and development corporation, specializes in the development of affordable housing, and in enhancing the lives of residents in its communities through comprehensive social service programs. Las Palmas is based in Encinitas, Calif., and owns more than 5,000 low-income units throughout the state.

C.A.R.E. (Communities Advocating for Resident Empowerment), an affiliate of Las Palmas Foundation, is a non-profit charitable corporation dedicated to providing comprehensive social services to low and very low income residents living at affordable housing communities. This 501 (c) 3 organization was created to provide children, youth, families and seniors with innovative programs and services that reinforce self-empowerment, foster economic independence and encourage community involvement.