

300 Poarch Creek Employees Help Make a Big Difference in Tiny Lives With the March of Dimes “2005 Blue Jeans for Babies”

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POARCH CREEK INDIAN NATION, Alabama – August 17, 2005 – Following a commitment to support the well-being of Alabama’s children, two Poarch Band of Creek Indian enterprises in Wetumpka and Montgomery have each contributed “Classic Fit” corporate sponsorships to the March of Dimes “2005 Blue Jeans for Babies”. On August 19, 2005, nearly 300 Poarch Creek employees will dress down for a day and wear “Blue Jeans for Babies” T-shirts to work.

“The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has traditionally supported the March of Dimes at the Tribal offices in Atmore, Alabama”, explains Kitty Stuart, General Manager of Poarch Creek Indian Gaming. “When the Central Division/Alabama Chapter March of Dimes contacted us about sponsorship in the Montgomery area, both the Riverside Entertainment Center and Tallapoosa Entertainment Center were eager to participate. Our central Alabama employees wanted an opportunity to join other local businesses and support the “Blue Jeans for Babies” casual Friday together.”

“Our employees are already excited about the idea of dressing down and wearing the T-shirt for a day,” says Marsha Allman, Site Manager at the Tallapoosa facility. Melanie Boatwright, Site Manager at the Riverside facility, agrees, “This is definitely a ‘feel good’ event, knowing our T-shirts contribute to an organization that helps improve the health of babies.”

The Poarch Creeks are joining participants from twenty other central Alabama counties. Rusty Aldridge, Community Director of the March of Dimes Central Division/Alabama Chapter, is excited about the level of involvement from the two Poarch Creek businesses. “We are so glad

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**POARCH BAND OF
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to have the Riverside Entertainment Center and Tallapoosa Entertainment Center join us as corporate sponsors. The March of Dimes looks forward to a long relationship with the Poarch Creeks.”

About the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

The Poarch Creek Indians are descendents of a segment of the original Creek Nation, which once covered nearly all of Alabama and Georgia. The Poarch Creeks avoided removal and have lived together for nearly 150 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama (located eight miles northwest of Atmore, Alabama in rural Escambia County, and 57 miles east of Mobile). The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws. The Tribe operates a variety of economic enterprises, which employ hundreds of area residents. Poarch Creek Indian Gaming manages three gaming facilities in Alabama, including: the Creek Entertainment Center in Atmore; Riverside Entertainment Center in Wetumpka; and, Tallapoosa Entertainment Center in Montgomery. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is an active partner in the state of Alabama, contributing to economic, educational, social and cultural projects benefiting both tribal members and residents of these local communities and neighboring towns.

About the March of Dimes

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality through community services, advocacy, research and education. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education, and advocacy to save babies, and in 2003 launched a campaign to address the increasing rate of premature birth. Currently, Native American preterm birth in Alabama is at 15.2%. The March of Dimes has more than \$935,000 invested in Alabama community programs and research projects. For more information, visit the March of Dimes website at www.marchofdimes.com or its Spanish website at www.nacersano.org.

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