

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 YEAR LATER COMMUNITY CENTER REACHES NINTH WARD AND BEYOND

Atlanta, GA – August 23, 2017 — One year ago, Desire Street Ministries celebrated the grand opening of Desire Community Square at the corner of Desire Parkway and Higgins Blvd. Three buildings now bring vibrant life to this neighborhood in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans where 12 years ago Hurricane Katrina devastated Desire Street Academy for young men, as well as the lives of New Orleans residents.

Today the Square reaches hundreds of children, youth and families from the Ninth Ward and beyond. Its early childhood learning center, Kids of Excellence, has a constant waiting list. The full-service medical clinic, Daughters of Charity Health Center – Desire, busily provides much-needed healthcare for all ages. Its community wellness center, Abundance of Desire, has served thousands of attendees at events at the facility over the past year.

“We have been very pleased with the reception by the community,” says Danny Wuerffel, Executive Director of Desire Street Ministries and 1996 Heisman Trophy winner. In 2015, ESPN told the story of the College Football Hall of Fame recipient and former University of Florida and NFL quarterback in a documentary, “Wuerffel’s Way,” which is still aired on the SEC Network.

“But the documentary is really more about the story of the Desire community, and all they went through in that terrible storm,” said Wuerffel. “These neighbors lost loved ones, belongings, homes—even their ‘second home’ which our school building had become. We’re very grateful for a FEMA assistance grant that made it possible for us to rebuild a community center, and it’s a true blessing to know that we have been able to not only replace what was lost in terms of a ‘home away from home,’ but that it is proving to be a catalyst to the development, growth and quality of life in the Ninth Ward and beyond.”

For more information, see www.desirestreet.org/neworleans or contact James Gadsby at jgadsby@desirestreet.org or 678-681-3979, x233.

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