



## For Immediate Release

### **“The New Orleans Saints Defensive Backs Host 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gifts for Grades”**

#### **NFL Players Take Students with Good Grades on a Surprise Christmas Shopping Spree**

It is that time of the year with Christmas holiday approaching, the New Orleans Saints Defensive Backs: **Leigh Torrence, Isa Abdul Quddus, Jonathon Amaya, Roman Harper, Malcolm Jenkins, Jabari Greer, Patrick Robinson, Tracy Porter, Terrail Lambert and Johnny Patrick**, are giving students another reason to work hard in the classroom by hosting the First Annual “Gift for Grades”, Christmas shopping experience.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2011, the Saints Defensive Backs “Dem Boyz”, join forces with Brule’ Sports and the Speak Up Speak Out Foundation to reward 64 eighth grade students and 16 special needs students at Martin Behrman Charter School for their outstanding academic achievements. Both groups of students will have an unforgettable Christmas. The 16 special needs students will receive gifts from their wish list and the 64 eighth graders will be surprised with a shopping spree at Wal-Mart. A lunch reception will be sponsored by Wags Food and Cultures and Smoothie King, with a special music performance by Jive Recording Artist R&B sensation Kourtney Heart and words of encouragement from DJ Mike Swift from Hot 102.9, followed by the surprise Christmas shopping spree.

“Being able to reward students for their academic achievements is very important to me. I am thrilled to reward the good behavior and help show students one of life’s great lessons: hard work has its rewards.” Saints Defensive Back Leigh Torrence said.

The Annual Gifts for Grades experience is a community building initiative event presented by Brule’ Sports and The Speak Up Speak Out Foundation to reward students with good grades. It brings the holiday spirit to a community in need.

While many people would blanch at rewarding good grades with gifts, it’s an incentive Brule’ Sports and The Speak Up Speak Out Foundation plans to offer students every year for the holidays.

“I don’t see it as a way of paying students to do well – it’s a reward. If you continue to do well in school, then life will continue to pay you well,” said Alvianne Brule’, Founder of The Speak Up Speak Out Foundation.

The objective of Gifts for Grades is to encourage students to recognize the value of school and the long-term benefits of securing good grades.

The Speak Up Speak Out Foundation, is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that focuses on reaching out and educating individuals that have been affected by abuse, violence, or suicide. The SUSO Foundation **core mission** is to educate and empower children, adolescents and youth adults in our communities. Visit the foundation [www.cen4you.org](http://www.cen4you.org).

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