

## **Culinary Chef & Family the “overlooked” victims of Hurricane Katrina- Needs Your Help!**

### **Sir / Madam:**

Hello, my name is Joe McGee Director of GOTDAD, Inc. we operate MPIRE Boxing Gym and Family Self-Defense School mentoring through sports boxing and martial arts. Our signature program “Flight or Fight” is our **FREE to the public** woman and children *anti-abduction and rape prevention program*. We’re recognized as a non-profit organization by the Fayetteville Police Department and Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County.

*The reason for my letter is we have taken on the project of helping what we feel is the, “last Hurricane Katrina victims (family) that has not received any official help due to technical circumstances. They have decided to make Fayetteville, NC their home and finally put Hurricane Katrina behind them. The misfortunate timing of events and circumstances have touched our hearts and **we need your help!**”*

### **Subject Family:**

Mother - Michelle Johnson 31 years old  
Daughter - Brittany 12 years old  
Daughter - Kaila 6 years old  
Son - Ethan 2 years old

### **About Michelle Johnson:**

Michelle Johnson has culinary arts training from Delgado Community College, specializing in Southern and New Orleans style cooking. She also has food catering and hospital food service experience. *Due to lost of birth certificate and other important documents that resided in mother’s resident in New Orleans, as of May 3, 2006 she now has North Carolina ID, thus allowing for employment.*

### **Their story is challenging and so unfortunate.**

Michelle Johnson and family, a life long 29 year resident of New Orleans moved to Dallas, TX by choice in October 2004 for a better life. While in Texas Michelle was gainfully employed, however missed home. So with planned preparations to rejoin family and friends back in New Orleans, at 7:45pm on *Friday August 26, 2005 (now worldwide recognized as the weekend preceding Hurricane Katrina)* Michelle and kids boarded Greyhound, bound for New Orleans. Upon arrival to New Orleans Saturday August 27, 2005 her family and friends *where being suggested by local news of a potential evacuation for fear of Hurricane Katrina.* On Sunday night August 28, 2005 Michelle, her kids, and family members succumb to the now *mandatory citywide evacuation to seek city shelters or leave New Orleans.* Having family transportation they headed to Dallas, TX for safety and to wait out the storm. The normal 8 hour trip to Dallas that night took over 20 hours due to New Orleans citywide evacuation. *As they waited out the storm on Monday come ...*

***. . .that Tuesday August 30, 2005 as the world  
witnessed there was no New Orleans to go back too.***

## The Unfortunate Technicality:

***As the city of New Orleans, it's stranded families and literally an entire cities personal effects lie beneath flood waters, so did Michelle Johnson and kids personal belongings that where left at her aunt's house. Because Michelle Johnson had moved to Texas in October 2004 she was considered a Texas resident, therefore was not recognized as a New Orleans evacuee, thus unable to receive any FEMA relief or funds.***

While in Dallas after Hurricane Katrina, Michelle and family stayed together with as many as 18 in a single household. Sadly amongst the many reports of family friends that perished in the storm the saddest of all news was the finding of her brother Gerald Johnson on October 10, 2005, whom lost his life to Hurricane Katrina. Michelle resided in Dallas once again until December 14, 2005 on which that day she experienced an apartment fire. Results of the apartment fire were additional lost of clothing due to smoke damage.

December 20, 2005 Michelle and her 3 kids, encouraged by a long time family friend whom was also displaced from Hurricane Katrina ventured to Fayetteville, NC to join them. To make matters worse their journey to Fayetteville, NC resulted in their ***luggage of what clothing that remained from the fire, was lost by Greyhound.*** Nevertheless they persevered and from December 20, 2005 to May 20, 2006, Michelle and kids resided in Fayetteville, NC until an unfortunate family dispute resulted with Michelle and her 3 kids homeless once again. Per inquiry with The Salvation Army and other homeless shelters during that time there was **no vacancies for families.** With only a few dollars to her name Michelle sought out shelter for her family at a local motel that weekend.

After learning of The Johnson's family situation GOTDAD, Inc. rallied to their aid by paying the expense of their motel and providing transportation for the kids until the last day of school. Presently we have secured residence for The Johnson family and are currently seeking permanent residence for the family. Also we're providing transportation and have assisted The Johnson family in getting DSS services and Ms. Johnson a job.

*Ms. Johnson has always dreamed of owning her own restaurant, sharing with the world her unique New Orleans style cooking. It was that dream that set in motion the imagination of GOTDAD, Inc. to assist and help Ms. Johnson's dream come true. We have tasted some of her dishes and Fayetteville, NC doesn't know it yet but (through GOTDAD, Inc. and your help) is in for a real New Orleans style treat.*

**- Our Mission has become The Johnson Family's wishes. -**

## **Our Mission:**

**Step 1:** Get The Johnson family permanent residence, furnishings, clothes, and their own transportation.

**Step 2:** Help Michelle Johnson get her own New Orleans style restaurant right here in Fayetteville, NC.

The Johnson Family has decided to make Fayetteville, NC home and we decided to help a neighbor, who has decided to treat our taste buds to the finest New Orleans style cooking you can imagine.

**If interested in helping please call Joe McGee @ 910.867.6122, thank you in advance.**

Sincerely,



**Joe McGee**

**Director**

**www.gotdad.org**

**FYI:** Eager to help and asking for community support we felt it was our obligation to verify The Johnson's family unfortunate ordeal. We first requested documents and made phone calls to verify; place of residence, event dates, times of travel, and lost of family, etc. Upon our findings their ordeal is sadly true. **Supporting documents and information came from:** Greyhound Bus Lines, Dallas Fire-Rescue Dept., Apartment complex verification of residence, Brothers Obituary, Daughter(s) January 11th 2006 enrollment into Cumberland County Schools and Pamela Story their Cumberland County School Social Worker.