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ATLANTIK-BRÜCKE E.V.

PRESS RELEASE

Dedication of the “Atlantik-Brücke Community Resource Center” in New Orleans

The festive opening of the “Atlantik-Brücke Community Resource Center” at the Lusher Charter School in New Orleans will take place on June 9, 2007. This ceremony, two years after the Hurricane Katrina disaster and six months after the re-opening of the Lusher Charter School, marks yet another important step towards the reconstruction of New Orleans and the revitalization of its civic culture. The Atlantik-Brücke Community Resource Center will also serve as a lasting reminder of German-American friendship.

A total of \$1.1 million in donations was raised by Atlantik-Brücke, primarily in Germany and, to a lesser extent, in the United States, to support the renovation and transformation of the Lusher Charter School gymnasium facility into a community center. The fully air-conditioned center, complete with dressing rooms and shower facilities, will offer a welcoming space for returning community members to enjoy and participate in theater productions, concerts, and sporting events. Students from nearby Tulane University, in addition to local clubs and youth groups, will be able to rent the center for their own activities. The center will thus provide a place for children and young people from the entire district to come together and participate in a broad range of free-time activities.

The Lusher Charter School’s student body incorporates young people from a variety of minority backgrounds, making Lusher the first integrated school in New Orleans. The financing of the “Atlantik-Brücke Community Resource Center” is the culmination of the German relief project “Bridge of Hope” established by Atlantik-Brücke in the days after Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans in August 2005. At that time, Atlantik-Brücke assisted in the immediate resettlement of about 50 families from New Orleans to Bismarck, North Dakota and, in close cooperation with community services, gave the displaced families financial support where gaps in government aid existed.

The Atlantik-Brücke was founded in 1952 as a private, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization aimed at building bridges between postwar Germany and the United States, one of the victorious powers of World War II. Among its members are over 500 leading figures from politics, business, the media, and academia in Germany. Atlantik-Brücke’s activities center on promoting better understanding between the United States and Germany.

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