



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9-14-2005
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Clowning Around for Katrina Relief: Circus Chimera Juggles Benefit Performances at Southland Mall

Circus Chimera president and founder James K. Judkins announced today that all proceeds from ticket sales for two shows on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at Hayward's Southland Mall will be donated to the American Red Cross, earmarked for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Circus Chimera is performing at the Southland Mall September 19 through September 25. Performances on September 20 are at 4:30pm and 7:30pm; ticket prices start at \$10.

"There is no near or far when it comes to a disaster of this magnitude," said Judkins.

Hugo Oklahoma's critically acclaimed Circus Chimera had been scheduled to play Hayward, California for months. The seven-day engagement at the Southland Mall is a major fundraiser for the community-based, East Bay service organization, the League of Volunteers. However in the wake of the terrible devastation along the Gulf Coast both Circus Chimera and the League of Volunteers wanted to do something concrete to help the tens of thousands whose lives were torn apart.

"The Board is thrilled to be supporting disaster relief on the Gulf Coast in this way," said League of Volunteers executive director Shirley Sisk. The League of Volunteers is also soliciting blankets, medical supplies, baby clothing, coloring books and small stuffed animals as part of its Operation Ryan's Hope, named for the seven year old boy who, after watching the television coverage of the victims, went into his bedroom to gather his toys for the children

"Kids, in particular, have a hard time coming to terms with calamities like these," Judkins noted. "They want to help. And now, by simply coming to the circus – they can."

Tickets to the benefit event may be ordered by phone (1-888-663-7464) or online (www.circuschimera.com)