

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

By Christie Taylor

BRUCE WILLIS – THE NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU HAS INTERNATIONAL APPEAL.

For many who were lucky enough to be raised in a loving environment, there are many others who need to know that it's a possibility. The Children's Bureau has been reaching out in an effort to make this possibility a reality for thousands of children across the country.

The Children's Bureau is a federal organization which is within the umbrella of several federal agencies—The United States Department of Health and Human Services, The Administration for Children and Families and The Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Their main purpose is to help children get out of abusive situations that may be detrimental to their mental and physical well-being. The Children's Bureau assists state and local-run foster care and adoption services through grants and

training programs which offers services that gives families a better understanding on how to live together as a unit.

When you visit their website, they provide several reports they have conducted, which you can download. The reports provide vital national statistics on Child Abuse and Neglect, Laws and Policies, Child welfare reviews and other pertinent information.

The Children's Bureau is in partnership with the Adoption Exchange Association and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, which developed a website called AdoptUsKids.org. It's a national database where social workers can use the information the website provides and help children who are

currently in foster care find permanent homes through adoption. AdoptUsKids.org also features success stories of children who benefited from their services and highlights children who are prime candidates for adoption.

In order to shed light on these resources, Bruce Willis has lent his support by becoming the National Spokesperson for The Children's Bureau. A public service announcement featuring Bruce and First Lady Laura Bush has been produced to promote this initiative.

To find out more about this you can log on to: www.adoptuskids.org and www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/



VERIZON CHOOSES THE JAZZ GREAT AL JARREAU AS THEIR NATIONAL LITERACY CHAMPION.

Imagine what the world would be like if you couldn't read a job application, a warning label or a stop sign. Life would be extremely confusing and potentially dangerous. Since 1999, telecommunications giant, Verizon, has com-



Al urges people to "Jazz things up with The rhythm of reading."

mitted itself to help millions of adults and children to read. Verizon Reads is their philanthropic venture against illiteracy. The program aims to spread awareness nationwide and help those to better their lives through reading. The program has already given nearly \$20 million dollars to 1,000 literacy

programs in 31 states and the District of Columbia. Verizon has expanded their efforts to develop the Verizon Literacy Network in 2001. It's an online resource which uses a national database called America's Literacy Directory. It lists thousands of literacy organizations. There is a great need for these efforts as the National Adult Literacy Survey reports nearly 48% or 92 million of the nation's

population have low literacy skills.

Another part of the Verizon Reads initiative is their Verizon Literacy Champion program. It's Verizon's advertising arm and it uses posters, newspaper inserts and community awareness events to spread the word about the importance toward a better life through reading. The Verizon Literacy Champion program also spreads its message through celebrities who can connect the program to local communities. Some of these local celebrities include Tiki Barber of the New York Giants, Trot Nixon of the Boston Red Sox, and Vanna White. Verizon chose multi Grammy® winner Al Jarreau as its first national spokesperson. As a person who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, Al has been a long time supporter in the fight for literacy. Furthering his commitment, he is donating a portion of the sales from his latest album, *All I Got*, to the Verizon literacy campaign.

Verizon customers can lend their support by donating one dollar a month by checking the appropriate box on their bill. Another place people can go to donate is www.superpages.com. For more information on the Verizon Reads literacy projects, go to either www.verizonreads.net or Al Jarreau's official website www.jarreau.com.

MOONLIGHTING *Strangers*

As you can see, we have retained our bi-monthly format. It gives more people a chance to contribute. Speaking of which, we are now seeking new material for the next fanzine

(Dec. '02 / Jan '03)

So, If you have original stories, poetry, articles, artwork, trivia, word games or anything else that is

Moonlighting related, email us at:

ceetay@earthlink.net