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Keep Troup Beautiful encourages groups to Adopt spots

(April 1, 2010) Seventh grader Zamoria Simpson saw a need in the greater community, talked it up with her friends, and formed a group to meet the need. Now Kids for the Community meets every other week to pick up litter in a local neighborhood where they have adopted a spot and promise to keep it tidy throughout the year.

In gearing up for the Great American Cleanup on April 17, Keep Troup Beautiful encourages students like Zamoria along with businesses, groups and individuals to adopt areas in Troup County and agree to keep them tidy year-round.

Simpson, a Westside Magnet School student, became familiar with Keep Troup Beautiful (KTB) because her mother, Zanthia, is a KTB board member. Inheriting her mother's penchant for community service, Zamoria rallied a dozen friends last May and they have been meeting twice a month since then.

"We try to help businesses and people out with cleaning up the community," the student said. "We want to get across the message that we need to help each other out, help each other do things, like pick up litter. We need to remember that we live here and we should take care of where we live."

Keep Troup Beautiful Director Doris Jefferson said Zamoria sets an example for old and young. "We could all follow the example of this young lady," said Jefferson. "If everyone would follow her example, we would have a much cleaner and healthier community. Zamoria is a definite leader in the community."

Keep Troup Beautiful invites groups to adopt a spot, a mile or a stream to keep clean as a community outreach. Responsibilities of adopters include cleaning or sprucing up the adopted area at least four times a year with one of the quarterly projects done

during the Great American Cleanup. Keep Troup Beautiful provides gloves, trash bags and seeds for beautification and cleanup projects. Markers bearing the adoptive organization's name are placed at adopted areas.

Jefferson encourages organizations throughout Troup County to take part in the Great American Cleanup by joining the Adopt Program. First Presbyterian of LaGrange and Pleasant Grove United Methodist churches have expressed interest in adopting areas, she added, encouraging other churches to take the initiative in cleaning up roadsides near them or other areas in need.

Kids for the Community—whose members attend West Side Magnet, Gardner Newman Middle School, Mountville Elementary and Callaway High—chooses to concentrate their efforts in city neighborhoods, even though most of their members live in the county. They recently adopted a corner at Daniel and Revis streets and plan to keep it clean and spruce it up throughout the year.



Sisters Zamoria, left, and Shania Simpson are members of Kids for the Community, an organization Zamoria started to address community concerns, like controlling litter and beautifying neighborhoods.

“We chose this area because it came across our point of view when we were coming into town and needed to be cleaned up and nobody else was doing it, so we

thought we'd help out," said Zamoria. "We try to go every other week and work two or three hours picking up trash, trimming bushes and cutting grass. We'll be planting flowers and we're going to put benches up, too."

For the Great American Cleanup, Kids for the Community has a plan in progress.

"My mom and I have been observing places that need cleaning up while we're riding in the car, and we'll go to these different places for the Great American Cleanup and maybe even adopt some more spots in the future," Zamoria said.

Keep Troup Beautiful will accept applications for adoptions during the Great American Cleanup or any time. For more on the Adopt Program or to register for the Cleanup, call Keep Troup Beautiful at 706-884-9922 or 706-883-8215 or email djefferson@asginfo.net. Download registration forms at www.keeptroupbeautiful.com or pick them up at KTB offices at 251 S.L. White Boulevard, off Callaway Church Road; Troup County Government Center Commissioners Office or Planning Department; and LaGrange Daily News.