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**Christian Women's Group Maintains 28-Year Undefeated "Boxing" Record,
Takes Fight Against Poverty on Road Trip**

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. (Sept. 26, 2006) – The Women's Christian Fellowship Group of Flora First Christian Church in Flora, Indiana has been sending boxes of hope and support to impoverished families in rural Mississippi for 28 years. As part of The Box Project, a national, non-profit organization devoted to the fight against rural poverty in America, the women's group has helped 10 families and individuals in their struggle to break the cycle of poverty. Extending The Box Project model, for the past 24 years members of the group have been making a 15-hour journey from Indiana to Mississippi at least once a year to personally deliver boxes of food, clothing and other supplies to those they are supporting.

"The caring members of the Women's Christian Fellowship have truly embraced the spirit of our program," said Sue Patneaude, Executive Director of The Box Project. "While the annual trip to hand-deliver supplies and visit these families far exceeds our expectations, it is an outstanding example of the good the can come from these lasting relationships between our sponsors and men, women, children, elderly living in poverty that they support."

The Box Project matches individual or group sponsors with carefully screened families who make up some of the 37 million Americans currently living in poverty. Approximately once a month, sponsors are expected to send letters and boxes of supplies, such as food, clothing, school supplies, and other household items, directly to the family they are supporting. This direct contact provides an opportunity for sponsors and recipient families to develop lasting, personal relationships. "The Women's Christian Fellowship has taken their commitment to the next level," added Patneaude.

According to Nancy Hicks, a founding member of the Women's Christian Fellowship Group, the Flora First Christian Church currently sponsors four families, with individual church members supporting an additional four families on their own. The group has supported one particular family for three generations, including helping to put the family's granddaughter through college. "One of the greatest experiences we have is to learn that families no longer need our help. We consider ourselves helpers, but the families must take responsibility to keep in touch with us and be willing to help themselves," Hicks said.

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Each year, approximately ten members of the group drive a van 14-15 hours to Mississippi. During the four-day trip, the group visits each of their match families, hosting picnic lunches, taking children shopping for shoes, and attending a service at the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Greenwood.

During their most recent visit to Mississippi, the annual excursion by the Christian Women's Fellowship Group was recorded by World Vision Report, a weekend radio newsmagazine program that addresses issues and events affecting the world's poorest children and families. The program will air later this year.

Founded in 1962, The Box Project, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization with headquarters in Central Florida. Working to help Americans living in areas with the highest rates of rural poverty, The Box Project seeks to ease the effects of poverty and increase mutual understanding by establishing meaningful relationships, promoting education, and offering material aid. With the help of referring agencies located in the areas served, The Box Project offers programs that simply alleviate the suffering of some, while also providing opportunities to support the growth and success of others seeking to learn how to make life better for themselves and their families, and willing to work toward the goal of achieving increased self-sufficiency. For general information or to sign up to be a sponsor, please visit www.boxproject.org. For other information, please call 386-677-8094.

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