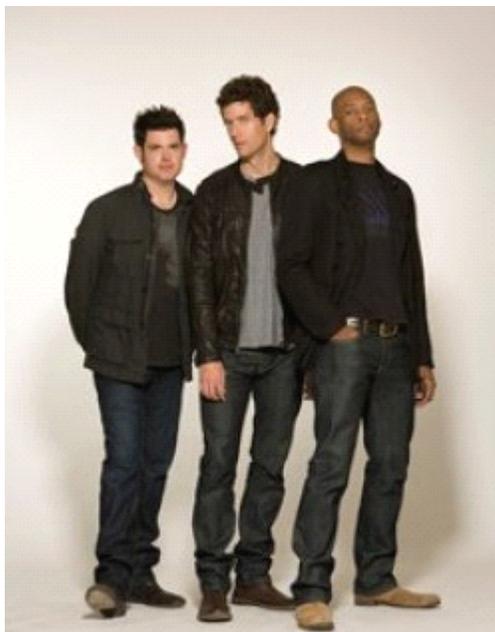




Impacting Lives Through Music

Better Than Ezra:



August 20, 2012

Only two original members remain from the New Orleans rock band that had Californians reaching for their surfboards in the mid-to-late 90's. Hits like "Good" from the '93 platinum album Deluxe, and Friction, Baby's "Desperately Wanting" propelled **Better Than Ezra** to national acclaim, showcasing a new sound from the Big Easy.

Since their peak years, Better Than Ezra has continued touring and recording drawing faithfuls from coast-to-coast. But lately, some of their more impressive feats have come by-way-of their civic contributions to their home city of New Orleans. Their charity, BTE Foundation (Better Than Ezra Foundation) has raised over \$850 thousand for causes in and around New Orleans since its formation in

2001.

Founding members **Kevin Griffin** (lead singer) and **Tom Drummond** (bass player) chose to amplify their presence in New Orleans by reaching out to fellow musicians and local businesses to assist in community efforts.

“After Katrina we felt we needed to step it up and do what we could to help New Orleans and the deep South recover,” says Drummond.

The 11th Annual Ezra Open, which originally began as a charitable golf tournament, has since grown into two major fundraising events- a daytime bowling tournament at Mid-City Lanes Rock n' Bowl, followed by the after party and concert inside Harrah's New Orleans Casino Theater. The bowling event, which includes an open bar, allows ticket buyers to mingle with celebrities and corporate sponsors who will bowl to raise money for various local organizations.

Drummond, Griffin and drummer Michael Jerome will rock the evening portion of the September 7 extravaganza inside Harrah's Casino, which also features local soul singer, Marc Broussard among other special guests. Amidst the live entertainment and free-flowing drinks, there will be a concerted effort to entice participation in a concurrent live and silent auction.

A portion of 2012 Ezra Open proceeds will go to Bethune Elementary in Holly Grove, New Orleans. BTE Foundation adopted Bethune Elementary School as part of its mission to provide better quality education and opportunities for New Orleans youth. “We have strong beliefs in education,” says Drummond, adding, positive outcomes are already being realized. “We’re doing what we can. They’re doing really well, but we’re doing what we can to make them even better.”

Over the years the BTE Foundation has made donations to several organizations such as New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), The Audubon Nature Institute, The New Orleans Fire Department, and Brad Pitt’s Make it Right Foundation, Louisiana SPCA, CrimeStoppers, among others.

Drummond says each Ezra Open has been better than the one before,

and expects no different this year. “We love New Orleans and want to see it prosper,” and hopes through BTE Foundation’s continued dedication and hard work “the foundation continues to grow,” says Drummond.

The 11th Annual Ezra Open Bowling Tournament begins Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. at Mid-City Rock n' Bowl. The Patron After Party begins at 7 p.m. inside Harrah's Casino Theater. For more information, go to <http://www.btefoundation.org/>.