

Comic Relief

Comedian holds benefit for hurricane victims

By **DANNY GALLAGHER**
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Sometimes you've got to make them laugh, even when they feel like crying.

Comedian Laura Bartlett of McKinney and her son, Mitch Strahan organized and will open for stand-up comic and actor Chuck Cason from Los Angeles for a special "Katrina Comic Relief" benefit at the Studio Movie Grill at 5405 Beltline Rd. at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Bartlett the benefit is her way of helping everyone get through the disaster.

"I wanted to do something and my son and I both do comedy and we wanted to help," Bartlett said. "We wanted to take care of not only people's physical needs through the American Red Cross but also emotionally and lift people's spirits during this very stressful time."

She also said her son said even he wanted to be involved.

"Mitch would like to say



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Laura Bartlett will be part of a comedy benefit to raise funds for hurricane victims.

that you don't have to be a celebrity entertainer to get involved and do something," she said. "Even a 12-year-old middle schooler can do something."

The show will also feature Cason as the headliner. Cason, a former Dallas resident and radio show host who also hails

from New Orleans, said he jumped at the chance to do the show since it will help both of his former homes.

"Although I've spent the last 20 years as a Dallasite (sic), I was born and raised in New Orleans," Cason said in a released statement. "I immediately said, 'Yes, I'll do it.'"

Seating begins at 7:20 p.m. and tickets are \$15 per person. All proceeds collected from the show will go towards the American Red Cross' Hurricane Relief Fund. Ticket prices do not include food or drinks during the show.

Bartlett also said anyone who cannot attend the show but would still like to help can sponsor a ticket for the show for an evacuee of which there are 100 who would like to go.

Anyone interested in attending the show or sponsoring an evacuee can pay at the door or reserve tickets online at www.chuckcason.com or contact Bartlett at (214) 450-9675.

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