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## 3-Time World T&F Champion Brittney Reese Feeds the Gulf Coast

*Donates 100 turkeys for the Thanksgiving Holidays in her hometown*

*November 14, 2011 – Gulfport, Miss.*

2011 has been a year of accomplishments For **Brittney Reese**. The 2008 Olympian graduated in May from the University of Mississippi with a degree in English and a minor in Psychology. This past August, Reese won her 3<sup>rd</sup> world long jump title in Daegu, South Korea to go along with the outdoor title she won in Berlin in 2009 and her 2010 world indoor title she won in Doha Qatar; thus making her arguably one of the USA's most successful track & field female athletes since Jackie Joyner-Kersey. But Reese was not done achieving in 2011. She wanted to try and help as many people in the community where she has lived for the past 22 years.

There are no homeless shelters or soup kitchens to assist those less fortunate in Mississippi's Gulf Coast community. But Reese was determined to try and do what she could to make a few people's lives just a little less stressful during the holidays.

This past week, Reese returned to Gulfport from her home in Oxford, MS to purchase 100 turkeys, each 10-16 lbs in size for Thanksgiving holiday. She then donated 35 turkeys to *Feed My Sheep*, a non-judgmental, faith based program dedicated to providing nourishment to the homeless, homebound and needy in the Gulfport area. *Feed My Sheep* is the area's primary organization helping those who fall on hard times. They provide services on a "no questions asked" basis for any patrons who walk through their doors in their hour of need. Program Director and Master Chef Wayne Favre was familiar with Reese's athletic accomplishments and thankful for her support.

*Feed My Sheep's* 6,000 square foot facility can serve up to 300 hot lunches per day and is capable of preparing an additional 250 meals for distribution to shut-ins. In 2009, *Feed My Sheep* served almost 100,000 meals in the dining room and to the homebound in the Gulfport community and they are on track to serve over 135,000 this year. A 501(c)3 organization, *Feed My Sheep* does not receive any monetary assistance from local, county, state or federal governments. They survive on the donations of individuals, churches, companies, and organizations that share their concern for those in need. Reese then traveled to WJZD 94.5 FM Radio to donate an additional 35 turkeys to be used for a community give-away for their listeners during the holidays. During the interview, Reese spoke about her recent accomplishments in T&F but also she also wanted to talk about how people are struggling in these tough economic times. While she can't help everyone, she felt it was her duty to help support the community that has supported her throughout her career.

Reese and her family will now work with the *Mount Bethel Baptist Church* in Gulfport to distribute 20 Thanksgiving baskets to deserving families. When asked about her efforts Reese stated, "*I enjoyed a great year and couldn't have done it without the support of my family, college coach and management. I know that everyone needs help in being successful and this is my way of trying to help people who may just need a helping hand. This is very important to me as I hope to inspire other people to get out and support their community however they can.*"

Reese continues to train with her college coach at Ole Miss in preparation for this summer's Olympic Games in London. Since 2009, Reese is ranked #1 in the world in the women's long jump event and enters 2012 as the favorite to win a gold medal. Her career best of 23ft 7.25 inches is only one foot short of the US record of 24ft-7 inches by Olympic Champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey in 1994.

Follow Brittney Reese's Facebook Fan Page at: <http://www.facebook.com/BrittneyReeseLJ>

For Brittney Reese interview and media request please contact World Express Athletic Management at Email: [worldexpressmgmt@yahoo.com](mailto:worldexpressmgmt@yahoo.com) or Website: <http://www.worldexpressmgmt.com>)

For more information regarding *Feed My Sheep*, visit <http://feedmysheepgulfport.org/>

For more information regarding WJZD 94.5 FM Radio, visit <http://www.wjzd.com/>

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