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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Nickelodeon Star Hosts Teen Center Benefit**

Kennesaw, Ga. (April 8, 2011) - Actor/singer Leon Thomas III, currently star of Nickelodeon's hit TV show *Victorious*, will visit Kennesaw on April 16 to support fund raising efforts for the city's new after-school program for teens.

Thomas will participate in the Big Shanty Festival Parade in downtown Kennesaw at 9:30 am. Following the parade, he will make personal appearances at the Youth Council booth at the Festival, where he will be available to meet with fans, provide photo opportunities and sign autographs.

At 6:30 pm, Kennesaw Mountain High School will host a program titled "A Chat with Leon Thomas III." Admission will be \$5 per person at the door; the proceeds will be used to help fund the after-school program now being conducted at the new Kennesaw Teen Center. In this one-man performance, the teen star will discuss the entertainment industry and his career progress, his belief in the importance of character building, and his support of youth development initiatives. He will also answer audience questions and perform a few acoustic songs.

Leon Thomas III is a talented actor, singer and dancer as well as an R&B and pop musician and songwriter. His filmography includes a Broadway debut at age 10 as Young Simba in the *The Lion King*; casting in the Broadway play *The Color Purple*; an appearance alongside Robin Williams and Terrance Howard in the film *August Rush*; and guest starring roles in *The Backyardigans*, *Jack's Big Music Show*, *Just Jordan*, and *iCarly*.

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