

Bel Biv Devoe visits Coastal Family Health Center

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By Krystal Allan

BILOXI, MS (WLOX) - On stages across the world, Bel Biv Devoe has performed its New Jack Swing style of R&B. But, the group says it's the issues on the smaller stage of everyday life to which they want to bring attention.

"Anytime we can come in town, perform and do our thing and shine a light on what's going on in the community, we definitely like to take the time out to do that. Because, we come from humble beginnings ourselves," says Ronnie Devoe.



Ronnie Devoe, Michael Bivins and Ricky Bell make up Bel Biv Devoe. Friday afternoon the group spent time at the headquarters for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project off Division and Lamuese in Biloxi. Coastal Family Health co-sponsors the program, and it's funded by the Children's Health Fund.

The group learned about the program's mobile bus units which treats children in the three coastal counties and also provide mental health services. Bel Biv Devoe got a broad view of the other work the project as undertaken to help the kids they treat live healthier lives, many of whom do not have insurance.

"I was in the position once in my life where I didn't have healthcare and went through a whole lot of challenges. Everybody should be afforded the opportunity to be able to be taken care of on that level," says Devoe.

"People with money have a short memory of where they came from. It seems like the reason why we're here is to probably take the message, to see what we can do to tell other people and create a chain of spreading the word that, the storm is still continuing," says Michael Bivins.

After spending nearly an hour learning more about the program and touring the mobile units, they took a few minutes to take pictures with the staff and show some of their fans a little love.

"It's an honor for us, and it's a pleasure for us," says Ricky Bell. "We jump at the opportunity to share that and bring awareness to this program."

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