



A program of the Education Foundation—Osceola County



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENT ART MAKES A SWEET DEAL FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

February 23, 2009 St. Cloud, FL: Maria Vazquez, a 5th grader from Kissimmee Elementary School, visits a local candy shop for more than just candy. Her painting of a Gustav Klimt masterpiece was purchased for \$65 by the owners of the newly opened candy shop called JenTels Candy Bouquet. The beautiful art piece is proudly displayed on the store wall above shelves of sweet delicacies in bouquets of bright colors. “We were blown away to discover that such a beautiful work of art was created by only a 5th grade student. Its color, expression and artistic energy fit perfectly here among our wide variety of candy flavors, colorful bouquets and yummy creations,” said candy store owner Jennieleigh Crystal-Clark. “More importantly, we wanted to support the children’s artistic talents and help raise money for the children in need.”

The silent auction was held during the St. Cloud Chamber After Hours on February 18th with all proceeds benefiting **A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County (AGFT-O), a program of the Education Foundation.** Thirteen other talented art students from Kissimmee Elementary School created their renditions of the famous Gustav Klimt artwork that were



Owners Terry and Jennieleigh from JenTels Candy Bouquet

auctioned off at the event to help AGFT-O purchase needed school supplies for children who cannot afford even the most basic tools such as pencils, crayons, back packs, paper or books. The event collected more than \$555 which will purchase more than 12,330 pencils for underprivileged children. Hundreds of business professionals bid on the unique artwork. In fact, J&P Accounting walked away with two paintings including the night's highest bid of \$80 on the Mother and Child piece created by 5th grader, Christian Poventud.

Through its five-year partnership with A Gift For Teaching in Orlando, AGFT-O has provided more than \$5 million in products to teachers to help provide for the more than 61% of underprivileged students in Osceola County. In fact, more than 1,000 Osceola County children are considered homeless and may not have anything as basic as a pencil or paper to complete their homework assignments. AGFT-O provides for this need by transferring the community's surplus materials and resources free to teachers for their students in need. With the increasing need, AGFT-O is currently collecting pencils and crayons. To make a contribution or to learn more about A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County, please contact Marcie Hill at 407-348-2370 or hillm@osceola.k12.fl.us.

*The **Education Foundation-Osceola County** is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting public education, teachers and students. Led by a 42 member board of directors, the Foundation currently awards over one-hundred ninety \$2,000 scholarships each year to Osceola County graduates. Other important accomplishments include matching children with mentors through the Take Stock in Children and Bookmark Buddies programs, providing classroom supplies to needy students and eligible teachers at no cost through the teacher free store called A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County, as well as providing classroom project grants and hosting special appreciation events for Osceola County educators and students. Visit our Web site at www.foundationosceola.org for more information about A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County or the Education Foundation~Osceola County.*

***A Gift For Teaching** is a Central Florida non-profit organization that serves 333 public schools in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. The Free Store in Orlando and its satellite store, A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County, are funded and stocked by local individuals and companies in the local community. To date, more than \$40 million worth of school supplies, including essential classroom tools such as pencils, notebooks, glue, backpacks, art supplies and books have been distributed to local students in need.*

***JenTels Candy Bouquet** is "A Candy Store With More" including gifts, greeting cards, balloons, 23 varieties of fresh fudge, and edible candy bouquets for all occasions. The family owned business opened on November 15, 2008 and is located in the Magnolia Square shopping center at 1718 E. Irls Bronson Hwy in St. Cloud. Contact JenTels Candy Bouquet at 407-891-6008.*