



A program of the Education Foundation~Osceola County

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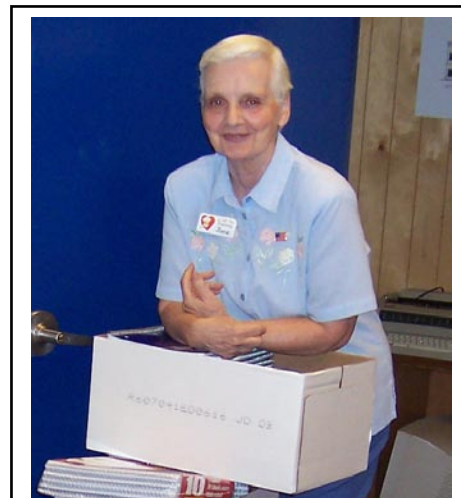
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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## VELVETINE RABBIT COMES TO LIFE AGAIN IN THE TEACHER FREE STORE

**August 4, 2009—Kissimmee, FL:** The story of the Velveteen Rabbit is no longer make-believe in Osceola County. In fact, hundreds of left over stuffed bunnies, dolls and teddy bears find new life at a unique store called A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County (AGFT-O). At AGFT-O something just short of magic happens as surplus product and left over merchandise find new life as they are transferred into the hands of needy students who cannot afford even the most basic school supplies.

Thanks to a dedicated volunteer of five years, Ms. Jane Glidewell keeps the magic alive as she makes sure every little stuffed toy has a special name of it's own, their missing eyes and buttons are replaced, their soiled bodies are washed clean, and most importantly, that each one finds a child to love them. As a retired teacher, Ms. Jane Glidewell



*Jane Glidewell, 5 year volunteer at  
A Gift For Teaching Of Osceola  
County*

knows all too well the needs of underprivileged students. In fact, Osceola County teachers often spend an average of a \$1,000 a year out of their own pockets to help provide basic tools to the more

than 61% of students in need at their schools. When Ms. Glidewell learned that there were children in the community that may not have something as simple as a teddy bear to cuddle up with each night, she became determined to make sure the shelves of the teacher Free Store were always filled with furry, cuddly friends. To date, she has volunteered more than 1,400 hours and donated nearly \$20,000. In honor of her 5 years of service to AGFT-O, the Education Foundation will award a \$500 scholarship annually for the next 5 years in her name.

A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County, a program of the Education Foundation in partnership with A Gift For Teaching in Orlando, is now collecting school supplies including crayons, pencils, paper, and glue for PUSH, a back-to-school campaign to stock the shelves of the Free Stores. To start a school supply drive at your place of work, to make a donation, or to drop off collected product, please call 407-348-2370 or email Marcie Hill at [hillm@osceola.k12.fl.us](mailto: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 volunteer board of directors, the Foundation currently awards over one-hundred thirty (\$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 a teacher free store, 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](http://www.foundationosceola.org) for more information.

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**A Gift For Teaching** is a Central Florida non-profit organization that serves 325 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 \$32 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.

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