



A program of the Education Foundation--Osceola County

Education Foundation--Osceola County
2310 New Beginnings Road, Suite 118
Kissimmee, FL 34744
www.foundationosceola.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Marcie Hill
A Gift For Teaching--Osceola County
Phone: 407.348.2370
hillm@osceola.k12.fl.us

Kathleen Susol
Education Foundation--Osceola County
Phone: 407.870.4855
susolk@osceola.k12.fl.us

Audrey Perrott
A Gift For Teaching
Phone: 407.345.0515 ext. 232
audrey@agifforteaching.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students and Teachers Find Relief Through A Gift For Teaching Of Osceola County

Orlando, Florida – October 6, 2008 – More than 800 children in Osceola County are considered homeless, and the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is families with children. Statistics reveal that these families remain homeless for an average of almost six months, and in Osceola County more than half of all students attending school qualify for the Free or Reduced lunch program. To provide relief, the Osceola community joined together during this struggling economic time to help teachers provide needy children in their classrooms with everything from pencils and crayons to book bags and calculators.

The Education Foundation--Osceola County would like to thank those who participated in the 2008 Back-To-School Supply Drive to benefit A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County (AGFT-Osceola). This year, more than 58 businesses and organizations in the Osceola community donated more than \$32,500 in basic school supplies. Thanks to their generosity, teachers who have faced cutbacks and families who struggle to do more with less are feeling a sense of relief through this program in Osceola County.

Congratulations to Dignity Memorial L.I.F.T. with Grissom Funeral Home and Crematory for collecting the most supplies achieving A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County's Top School Supply Drive Contributor for the fifth consecutive year. Members of L.I.F.T., a social bereavement support group for those who have lost a loved one, are passionate and dedicated to making sure that all children have the tools they need to be successful students. Other top contributors include Gaylord Palms Resort, Osceola County Government employees, Celebration residents, Gatorland, Chick-fil-A, and the employees of the School District of Osceola County.

To make a donation, contact Marcie Hill at 407-348-2370 or hillm@osceola.k12.fl.us. For more information on A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County and many other programs supported by the Education Foundation, please visit us at www.foundationosceola.org.

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The **Education Foundation-Osceola County** is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting public education, teachers and students. Led by a 40 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 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 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 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. Since 1998, more than \$38 million worth of school supplies, including essential classroom tools such as pencils, notebooks, glue, backpacks, art supplies, books and more have been distributed to local students in need, diverting more than 7 million pounds of products from landfills.