

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Education Foundation~Osceola County
Receives Grant from Target for Bookmark Buddies**

Kissimmee, Florida (September 19, 2008) — The Education Foundation~Osceola County today announced a partnership with Target® in recognition of its efforts in raising the reading levels of at-risk third grade students. This grant will provide program support for over 320 students who are reading below grade level and are at risk of retention. Students work with trained volunteer mentors from the community meeting once a week for thirty minutes at the child’s school.

“Target has been helping the Education Foundation~Osceola County promote literacy for five years. Since 2004, Target has contributed to the reading success of 1,098 students throughout Osceola County. The Foundation is extremely appreciative of Target’s partnership and continued support.” (Kathy Carr, Executive Director)

This grant is part of ongoing efforts by Target to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given 5 percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism. Today that translates to more than \$3 million every week.

“At Target, our local grants are making a difference in the communities we serve,” said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. “We’re proud to partner with the Education Foundation~Osceola County as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work.”

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Additionally, Target gives through signature programs that are designed to inspire learning in children and families. Programs include:

- Take Charge of Education[®], a school fundraising program;
- Target Field Trip Grants, a program that helps educators bring learning to life for students through the distribution of grants;
- Ready.Sit.Read!, a program dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of reading in children at an early age;
- Target House[®], which serves as a home away from home for families of children receiving life-saving treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital[®] in Memphis;
- Target Volunteers, a program where Target team members and retirees annually donate more than 350,000 hours of time to more than 7,500 community-based projects

About Education Foundation~Osceola County

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 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 for more information about A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County or the Education Foundation~Osceola County.

About Target

Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at more than 1,600 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Target is committed to providing guests with great design through innovative products, in-store experiences and community partnerships. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at Target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Target (NYSE:TGT) gives more than \$3 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

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