

For information contact: Education Foundation~Osceola County
Cindi Junkins 2310 New Beginnings Road, Ste 118
Phone: 407.870-4031 Kissimmee, FL 34744
junkinsc@osceola.k12.fl.us 407.870.4855
www.foundationosceola.org



For Immediate Release



Pictured left to right: Dan DeVos, Chairman, Orlando Magic, Jamie Domres, Program Administrator for Bookmark Buddies, Kathy Carr, Executive Director of the Education Foundation ~ Osceola County, Linda Landman-Gonzalez, Vice President of Community Relations and Government Affairs, Orlando Magic, and Alex Martins, CEO, Orlando Magic.

Education Foundation awarded \$20,000 Grant from Orlando Magic Youth Foundation

January 30, 2012 –Kissimmee, FL: The Orlando Magic Youth Fund, a fund of the McCormick Foundation, has generously awarded a grant to the Education Foundation~Osceola County in the amount of \$20,000. This grant will be used to fund the Bookmark Buddies Literacy program – a reading/mentoring program that helps third grade students improve their reading skills.

The Education Foundation has offered the Bookmark Buddies Literacy program in partnership with The School District of Osceola County for approximately ten years. Bookmark Buddies targets third grade students who read below grade level and are at risk of scoring a Level 1 on the FCAT. Students are matched with a trained volunteer mentor and meet once a week for thirty minutes in the child's school, using reading materials selected for the child's current reading level. The mentor/student relationships are monitored throughout the school year to ensure students are adequately progressing and benefiting from participation in the program. For more information on Bookmark Buddies, please contact Jamie Domres at 407-870-4855, or visit the Education Foundation's website 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, and is celebrating its 26th year of helping students in Osceola County. Led by a 35-member Board of Directors, the Foundation awarded over 100 scholarships in 2011 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 Gift For Teaching, and providing clothing and school uniforms to children through The Kids Closet Program.

Visit our website at www.foundationosceola.org for more information, or call 407-870-4855.