

## **OCEAN BANK RECEIVES THE 2007 LEAVE A LEGACY® DONOR NEXT DOOR AWARD**

**MIAMI, FL—August 10, 2007** -- Ocean Bank is the proud recipient of the **2007 LEAVE A LEGACY® Donor Next Door Award**. Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, LEAVE A LEGACY® recognizes philanthropists and local organizations that are making a difference in South Florida's non-profit community. With the Donor Next Door Award, Ocean Bank is recognized for its commitment to improving education and contributing to local schools in our community through its Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials (OBCEM), a program administered by the Education Fund, a non-profit organization. Ocean Bank president and chief executive officer, José A. Concepción, accepted the award during the LEAVE A LEGACY annual award luncheon.

"The Ocean Bank family of employees is thrilled to receive this prestigious award," said José A. Concepción. "At Ocean Bank we feel it is our responsibility to help the youth of our community excel and the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials is one of the Bank's most important education related initiatives. Through the OBCEM we are able to support our public schools and ultimately, provide students with much needed additional classroom materials. We also acknowledge the Education Fund for all their efforts in improving public education in Miami-Dade County."

Established in 1993, as a result of Hurricane Andrew, the OBCEM is a large warehouse and distribution program sponsored by Ocean Bank and coordinated by The Education Fund. The OBCEM collects surplus inventory and supplies from the business community and makes them available for free to Miami-Dade County Public School's teachers for their students. The 11,000-square-foot warehouse provides free supplies for teachers to use in their classrooms. The OBCEM is the first "reuse and recycle center" in Florida.

**(more)**

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### **Ocean Bank Donor Next Door Award/--2**

Thanks to Ocean Bank's invaluable support of more than \$1 million in grants to the Education Fund, as well as leadership and countless hours of involvement from executives, the bank has leveraged more than \$5.3 million in supplies and materials for nearly 400,000 students in more than 98 percent of schools in the district. The Bank's sponsorship also supports an annual art exhibition and auction, which honor teachers and students for the creative ways they use materials. The annual art auction, *The Art of Found Objects*, has raised \$1.4 million to fund public school art programs.

Celebrating its 25-year-anniversary in 2007, Ocean Bank is the largest independent commercial bank chartered and headquartered in Florida, with more than \$5.9 billion in assets and \$4.9 billion in deposits. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The community bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, The Beacon Council and the Florida Department of Education among others for its support of South Florida's communities. For more information logon to [www.oceanbank.com](http://www.oceanbank.com).

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