

**The Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials and
The Education Fund**
Raise \$56,000 at the Tenth Annual Art of Found Objects Art Auction
*Proceeds from the Sale of Student and Teacher Work Benefit Art Programs in Miami-
Dade County Public Schools*

Miami, FL, November 1, 2007 — Miami-Dade County Public Schools students and art teachers put their creative caps on when working on artwork for the Annual Ocean Bank Center/Education Fund *Art of Found Objects Art Auction*. The process began with recycled materials provided by the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials (OBCEM). This year's artwork included the use of styrofoam, telephone wire, ceramic tiles, historical calendars of South Florida, sequined paper, plastic perfume bottles and much more. All materials provided by the Ocean Bank Center were available for free to teachers to use in the classroom. Equipped with these "found objects," students and teachers use their creativity to convert them into impressive works of art such as paintings, drawings, traditional sculptures, mixed-media and 3D pieces. Miami-Dade students and art teachers created more than 150 works of art that were presented at the Annual Art of Found Objects Silent Art Auction which took place at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa (4400 NW 87 Avenue, Miami) on Friday, October 19. The art auction was sponsored by Ocean Bank, The Education Fund, and The Doral Golf Resort and Spa. This year, more than 300 guests contributed to raise \$56,000 to benefit art programs in Miami-Dade County public schools.

Among the attendees were Betsy Kaplan, Myrna Palley, Lilia Garcia, Rosie Gordon-Wallace, Maggie Hernandez, Modesto Abety, Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Ana & Neisen Kasdin, Merle & Danny Weiss, Trae Williamson, Red Carter, Cindy Ziff, Lisa Sloat and Hank Klein.

"This event allowed the community to support art education in our public schools," said Linda Lecht, president of The Education Fund. "The artwork submitted to the auction was creative and beautiful, proving the amazing work students can create when they have the means and support."

This year, striking pieces for the Art Auction were submitted by students from 23 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a number of them in some of the county's low-income neighborhoods. Participating schools included Banyan Elementary, Rainbow Park Elementary, Biscayne Elementary, Centennial Middle, Dr. Michael Krop High and Miami Springs High among many others.

"Ocean Bank has been involved with this art program for more than a decade," said José Concepción, president and CEO of Ocean Bank. "This year we celebrate 25 years of banking in South Florida and some of the artwork celebrates our anniversary. As a community bank, we are committed to encouraging student creativity and supporting the arts in education." Ocean Bank has donated more than a million dollars since 1993 in support of The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials and its art programs. This investment has leveraged in excess of \$5.5 million in goods donated to the Ocean Bank Center by companies throughout South Florida and the United States. Teachers from nearly every public school in the district visit The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center on a weekly basis to obtain classroom materials such as paper, incentive items, books, tapes and art materials for their students.

The Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials is a warehouse and distribution program sponsored by Ocean Bank and run by The Education Fund. The Ocean Bank Center collects surplus inventory and supplies from the business community and makes them available for free to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' teachers for their students. The Ocean Bank Center is located in Medley, FL.

The Education Fund is an independent non-profit organization established in 1985. The Education Fund's mission is to design and implement initiatives that involve the private sector in improving public education. Since its inception, The Education Fund has raised more than \$28 million to support and improve our local public schools. For more information, visit www.educationfund.org.

Ocean Bank: Celebrating its 25-year-anniversary in 2007, Ocean Bank is the largest independent commercial bank chartered and headquartered in Florida. It operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Chartered in 1982, the community bank is recognized as a leader in fueling South Florida's economic growth by providing its customers with quality financial products like commercial real estate lending, corporate lending and small business lending all of which have attributed to growth and new employment opportunities in our community. With more than \$5.8 billion in assets and \$5 billion in deposits, Ocean Bank is a true local bank that reinvests 100 percent of local and foreign deposits in South Florida. It has received numerous recognitions for its support of local charitable organizations and for its commitment to helping those who are most in need. For more information, visit www.oceanbank.com.

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