

THE EDUCATION FUND RAISES \$65,000 AT ITS OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

11th 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, May 14, 2008 — Miami-Dade County Public Schools students and art teachers put their creative caps on when working on artwork for The Education Fund's Annual Ocean Bank Center *Art of Found Objects Art Auction*. The process began with recycled materials provided by the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials. This year's artwork included the use of mouse pads, razors, telephone wire, string cones, rulers, sheet metal stampings, key chains and much more. All materials provided by the Ocean Bank Center were available for free to teachers to use in their classrooms. 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 285 works of art that were presented at The Education Fund's 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, May 2nd, 2008. The art auction was sponsored by Ocean Bank, The Doral Golf Resort and Spa, Bacardi and The Children's Trust. The striking pieces for the art auction were submitted by students from 40 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a number of them located in some of the county's low-income neighborhoods. In addition, 45 public school teachers donated their own art pieces to the auction.

This year, more than 300 guests contributed to raise \$65,000 to benefit art programs in Miami-Dade County public schools. Among the attendees were CBS4 anchor Shannon Hori, event special honoree Kirk Landon, Myrna and Sheldon Palley, Evelyn Greer, School Board member, Barry Johnson, President and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Hank Klein, Chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Slaton, Mayor of Miami Lakes.

"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."

"Ocean Bank has been involved with this art program for more than a decade," said A. Alfonso Macedo president and CEO of Ocean Bank. "As a community bank, we are committed to encouraging student creativity and supporting the arts in education." Ocean Bank has donated more than \$ 1million 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 \$5.7 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 is the largest independent commercial bank headquartered in the state of Florida. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Since its inception, Ocean Bank has impacted education in our community by making substantial contributions to numerous institutions such as the Education Fund, Florida International University, Miami Dade College and The United Negro College Fund/Florida Memorial University.

Acknowledging its support, Ocean Bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Council and the Florida Department of Education, among other organizations. For more information about Ocean Bank, visit www.oceanbank.com.