

**THE OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
12th ANNUAL “ART OF FOUND OBJECTS” ART AUCTION
RAISES \$71,000**

**Proceeds will benefit the Education Fund Art programs
in Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

Miami, Florida, June 4, 2009 – The Education Fund’s 12th Annual Charity Auction “The Art of Found Objects” took place at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa on May 29, 2009. The event showcased more than 170 one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork created by students & teachers in Miami-Dade County K-12 public schools, using materials donated by the **Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials**. This exclusive art lover’s event also featured bids on luxury items, live entertainment, excellent food and an open bar.

The annual art exhibition and charity auction combines the power of a child’s imagination with the ultimate recycling program. This year the auction featured remarkable pieces of art created by 436 Miami-Dade elementary, middle and high-school students and teachers representing 33 schools, many in low-income neighborhoods. Their original works were all crafted from materials “found” at The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials. The Center, where more than 15,000 teachers have shopped for free since 1993, is stocked with donated supplies. Many of the students’ unique works addressed conservation and environmental themes such as "Water & Sewer," "Solid Waste" and the "South Florida Eco-System."

“The charity auction illustrates the unlimited creativity and inspiration our children have to offer when they have the means and support of the community behind them,” said Linda Lecht, president of The Education Fund.

“Ocean Bank has been involved with this art program for the last 15 years,” said A. Alfonso Macedo president and CEO of Ocean Bank. “As a community bank, we are

strongly committed to encouraging student creativity and supporting the arts in education.”

This year, more than 400 guests raised \$71,000 to benefit art programs in Miami-Dade County public schools. Among the attendees were philanthropists and art collectors Myrna and Sheldon Palley, Kirk Landon, Donn Golden and Brenda Bassett, as well as representatives from community businesses and organizations such as Raj Rawal, CIO of Burger King, Modesto Abety, President of The Children's Trust and Bert Hucks, CIO of Four Eyes.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND:

Since 1985, The Education Fund has worked side-by-side with the private sector to direct resources where they are needed most in Miami-Dade schools. Their mission is to design and implement initiatives to improve our schools and bring excellence to public education in Miami-Dade. The Education Fund engages the entire community in making educational excellence a top priority and ensuring that every child learns and succeeds in the Miami-Dade County public schools. The Education Funds programs benefit all of the 390+ schools, 22,000+ teachers and 340,000+ students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

ABOUT OCEAN BANK

Ocean Bank is the largest independent state chartered commercial bank headquartered in Florida, with \$4.6 billion in assets. 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 our South Florida communities. For more information, log on to www.oceanbank.com.

###