

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Florida Crystals Presents \$50,000 Gift to Take Stock in Children**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- January 11, 2006 -- Florida Crystals Corporation partners with Take Stock in Children to provide low-income, at-risk students with college scholarships and caring mentors.

Florida Crystals will present a \$50,000 gift to the program at the agency's annual Contract Signing Ceremony at Palm Beach Lakes Community High School on January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

"The Florida Crystals' gift is an amazing opportunity for low-income children," said Rosanne Sanchez, Take Stock in Children's Director of Development. "With hard work and dedication, they will not have to let their families' income determine their outcome in life."

The donation will be matched by the State of Florida's Pre-paid College Foundation's STARS program and by the Gertrude E. Skelly Foundation. Through this gift alone, Take Stock in Children now has \$150,000 for scholarships for needy children right here in our community.

"The difference between success and failure is perseverance, being able to overcome obstacles," said Alfy Fanjul, Florida Crystals' CEO. "We are hopeful that the opportunities now presented to these children through Take Stock in Children will encourage them not to quit so that they can succeed."

Sixty new students from 14 different schools in Palm Beach County will sign contracts promising to maintain good grades, good behavior, meet weekly with their mentor, and attend enrichment workshops. Upon high school graduation, they will have a 4-year, full-tuition scholarship.

"Take Stock in Children offers hope to children who otherwise may have given up on themselves," said J. Pepe Fanjul, Florida Crystals' President and COO. "We are committed to our partnership with Take Stock in Children, financially and through mentorship."

*Take Stock in Children is a non-profit program that has been serving Palm Beach County since 1996. Take Stock in Children of Palm Beach County has placed 540 students in the program since its inception, and has an 87% success rate of keeping students on track to graduate high school and attend college. Since 1995, the program has impacted the lives of over 10,000 students living in the State of Florida. Its mission is to passionately promote personal growth, self-responsibility, and academic success for deserving low-income children by providing a unique set of resources including mentors, scholarships, long-term support, student advocacy, and a guaranteed educational opportunity. To contribute to Take Stock in Children of Palm Beach County, or to receive more information please call Rosanne Sanchez at (561) 582-3765, or visit their web site at [www.takestockinchildren.org](http://www.takestockinchildren.org)*

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