

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **18 Glades-area Students to Receive College Scholarships!**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – April 10, 2008 – Eighteen Glades-area students officially entered the Take Stock in Children program, making them eligible to receive four-year full-tuition scholarships or two-year technical scholarships.

Florida Crystals Corporation provides scholarships for many of Take Stock's students from the Lake Region each year; this year's students include Eric Lawson, Juan Calvillo, Daisy Jimenez, and Alexander Medrano, who also participate in New Hope Charities' programs in Pahokee, where Take Stock's western Palm Beach County office is located. Three students from Everglades Preparatory Academy in Pahokee -- Shaquita Hawkins, Marshane Orr, and Geniqua Carter -- also received scholarships provided by Florida Crystals.

The GEO Group also sponsored new students this year, including Jessie Pouch, William Likely III, and Paulette Palmer, who are all in seventh grade at Lake Shore Middle School in Belle Glade.

“This year's gifts are further examples of the long-standing partnerships Florida Crystals and GEO Group have with Take Stock in Children,” said Rosanne Sanchez, Executive Director of Take Stock in Children. “We are grateful not only for these resources, which will impact our work, but also for the enthusiasm these associates display through volunteering as mentors and leaders in our program. We are working diligently to recruit more local mentors from Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay, which are essential to our program's continued expansion in the region.”

The Take Stock program, which is celebrating its 11<sup>th</sup> year in Palm Beach County, has grown exponentially in the Tri-Cities over the past three years, from 17 students to almost 90. The program also receives substantial support earmarked for western Palm Beach County from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

Take Stock's students have earned the “chance of a lifetime” to further develop their skills and graduate from college. Students with the desire, motivation, and potential to go to college that come from low-income families in Palm Beach County may be awarded this scholarship opportunity. Beginning in seventh grade, students sign a contract agreeing to keep their grades at the A, B, or C levels, obey the code of student conduct, stay crime and drug free, and meet with their mentor once each week.

In return, Take Stock in Children promises to pay all tuition for a four-year college education or a two-year technical degree. Students can attend any of Florida's 28 community colleges for two years, followed by two more years at any of Florida's 11 state universities. They finish the program as proud university graduates with a bachelor's or associate's diploma.

Take Stock in Children is a comprehensive program that helps children at or near the poverty level to succeed by providing volunteer mentors, student advocates/case managers, tutoring, early intervention and long-term support, parental involvement, and four-year tuition only scholarships for college and vocational studies.

To learn more about the work of Take Stock in Children, to volunteer as a mentor or to contribute, contact Rosanne Sanchez at (561) 582-3765 or visit [www.takestockinchildren.org](http://www.takestockinchildren.org).

*Take Stock in Children of Palm Beach County has placed 540 students in the program since its inception in 1997, 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 more than 11,000 students living in Florida. Students must qualify under the federal poverty guidelines and must agree to maintain good grades, stay out of trouble, attend school, stay drug and alcohol free and meet weekly with their adult volunteer mentor. The student will receive a four-year college tuition scholarship or a scholarship for vocational studies purchased through the Florida Prepaid College Tuition Program.*

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