



Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway Brings School Supplies to Hundreds of South Florida Children in Foster Care

Family Resource Center of South Florida Kicks off 6th Annual Backpack Program

Miami, FL – August 4, 2011 – Back-to-school is a critical time of year to reflect upon children in need. With close to 3,000 children in the foster care system in South Florida, many area children, already with challenges at home, now face the start of a new school year with anxiety about acquiring needed school supplies. An important and inspiring program run by **Family Resource Center of South Florida** (“FRC”), one of the state’s leading child welfare organizations, works to resolve this problem by **providing new school supplies and backpacks to foster kids.**

FRC’s back-to-school backpack giveaway program outfits over 350 children with needed items including backpacks, mechanical pencils, glue sticks, #2 pencils, jumbo pencils, colored pencils, markers, pens (blue, black, red), highlighters, index cards, 2-pocket folders, and notebook paper. The program is in its 6th year running and serves as a wonderful complement to FRC’s work which is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and includes child placement in a certified foster home, mental health counseling, ongoing home visits and assessments, tutoring, school uniforms, adoptions and other interventions and support as needed.

FRC’s Executive Director, Oren Wunderman, reflected on the back-to-school program, “We take enormous pride and joy in serving foster children and believe the back-to-school season is a wonderful time for a fresh start.” “It is clear that the back-to-school backpack giveaway furnishes children with the supplies they need, and contributes to their confidence to help make the academic year ahead a successful one.”

Foster care kids in South Florida have already started to receive their new backpacks and supplies and will continue to throughout August. If you wish to learn more, would like to interview Dr. Wunderman, or arrange to see a family receiving the donated items, please contact Christina Daigneault at [917-207-4686](tel:917-207-4686) or Amber Haeckel at [917-805-0471](tel:917-805-0471).

About Family Resource Center

Family Resource Center of South Florida, Inc., a non-profit organization, was founded in 1978 by a group of concerned community leaders. FRC's Mission is the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect by strengthening families through the provision of Family Support Services, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Parent Education Classes, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling Services.

FRC won Florida Trend Magazine's BEST PLACES TO WORK in both 2010 and 2011 and is one of only two non-profit organizations recognized for the award.

About the Executive Director, Dr. Oren Wunderman

Oren Wunderman, Ph.D., has worked in non-profit child welfare agencies or mental health centers for most of the last thirty years. He is licensed as a Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor. He earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Miami. He has taken coursework in non-profit management from the Harvard University School of Business and the Florida International University School of Business. For the past 15 years, he has been a yearly guest lecturer in the subjects of Child Abuse and Forensic Psychology at the University of Miami, Departments of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, Miami Children's Hospital and several local Community Mental Health Centers.

Dr. Wunderman has been with FRC for the past 15 years, 10 of which he has served as the Executive Director. During his tenure, Dr. Wunderman has enabled FRC to triple in size while expanding the complexity and scope of services. He extols to the staff the values of Transformational Leadership, whose cornerstone beliefs are: (1) Treat the clients respectfully, always caring for them as though they were loved members of your family, and (2) Always preserve a fundamental humility and awe about the vital services provided to troubled clients.