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Take Stock in Children Awards Outstanding Programs at Celebration of Success

Orlando, FL – Take Stock in Children, the nation’s premier mentoring and scholarship organization, honored local program partners from across the state for their success in providing low-income, at-risk children with scholarships, mentors, and hope.

Seven awards were given to program partners who provided outstanding dedication and commitment to the students they serve during the 2008/2009 school year. The following awards were given:

- **Excellence in Mentoring** – Nassau County led by Florida Community College at Jacksonville
- **Excellence in Program Growth** – Lake City Community College Foundation and Take Stock in Children of Sarasota County
- **Excellence in Program Management** – Manatee County Schools Foundation, Brevard Schools Foundation, Escambia Foundation for Excellence, and Charlotte Education Foundation.

The Florida Lottery, a long-term statewide sponsor of Take Stock in Children sponsored the event attended by more than 140 educational advocates from around the state. The Florida Lottery believes that the future begins with supporting Florida’s children with a strong education. The Florida Lottery has contributed more than \$19 billion to education initiatives across the state.

Take Stock in Children is a non-profit organization providing scholarships, mentors and hope to Florida’s underprivileged youth. Take Stock in Children is a long-term, results driven program which offers a comprehensive plan of success for selected students – they must sign a contract to stay in high school, maintain good grades, and meet with a mentor once a week. In turn, Take Stock in Children provides each student with a fully paid tuition scholarship to attend college or vocational school in Florida. Take Stock in Children is a public-private partnership that includes an array of individual, civic, government, non-profit, and for profit organizations. The investment from these various resources reassures students that their communities support them in their efforts to succeed in college, vocational education, and most importantly in life. Take Stock in Children has been identified by the national Advisory Committee of Student Financial Assistance as a program that works with a unique structure.

Take Stock in Children has served more than 17,000 children since its inception in 1995. To learn more, visit www.takestockinchildren.org.

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