

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEW BROWARD COUNTY KIDS IN NEED RESOURCE CENTER OPENS IN POMPANO BEACH**

Erika Rupp, a fifth grade teacher at Stephen Foster Elementary School, admits that she often spends \$1,000 of her own money to purchase schools supplies for children in her classroom who can't afford to buy the tools they need. M. Jacob Aronin, a teacher at Parkway Middle School, was able to reward one economically disadvantaged student with new school supplies when despite her lack of access to technology she was able to excel at her science presentation.

Rupp and Aronin represent teachers from more than half of Broward County schools that qualify for Title I services for children from low-income families, many of whom cannot afford basic school supplies. These teachers are now able to shop for free supplies in the new 7,100-square-foot Kids in Need Resource Center at 2300 W. Copans Rd., #5, in Pompano Beach.

**The official grand opening of the Center will be held on Wednesday, January 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit ([www.browardedfoundation.net](http://www.browardedfoundation.net)).**

The Kids in Need Resource Center was established 10 years ago by the Broward Education Foundation and has since provided school supplies to about 8,800 teachers who pass the backpacks, pencils, paper and more along to nearly 155,000 kids. The previous location was so limited in space it was only able to serve 50 percent of the teachers in Title 1 schools. The ultimate goal of the new center is to serve 100 percent of these teachers each school year.

The expanded facility will allow the Resource Center to more than double its hours of operation to three hours each week day and half a day on Saturdays.

"When more teachers have the opportunity to tap into the Center's resources, the obvious beneficiaries will be their students – the ones who have few, if any, school supplies to call their own," said Jorene Jameson, president and CEO of the Broward Education Foundation.

The Resource Center is one of 24 similar facilities affiliated with the Ohio-based Kids in Need Foundation.

Grand Opening festivities will feature two teachers like Rupp and Aronin who have submitted heart-warming stories about their students need of school supplies. Two winning essays will be selected by members of the Education Foundation Board of Directors. Those teachers will be able select as many free school supplies as they can grab during the 60-second 411-Pain Dash for School Supplies. This shopping spree, made possible thanks to a \$1,000 donation from 411-Pain, will be in addition to the two annual visits to the Center offered to select teachers in Title I schools.

Festivities also will include a performance by the Pompano Beach High School Drum Line, an official ribbon cutting, and comments from Broward Schools Superintendent James F. Notter and Broward Education Foundation Board Chair Joseph Cobo. The two winning teachers also will have the chance to share their heart-warming stories about their students.

To open the new Center, Target donated more than \$30,000 in display and storage shelving, while a team of 30 employees helped assemble the units and put out merchandise. Pirtle Construction Company donated over \$13,000 in renovations to the new space.

For information on how to support the Resource Center with financial gifts or donated goods, call Hector Javier, store manager, at 754-321-9021 or E-mail ([hector.javier@browardschools.com](mailto:hector.javier@browardschools.com)).

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**Editor's Note: Copies of the teachers' winning essays are available upon request.**

**About the Broward Education Foundation:**

Established in 1983, the nonprofit Broward Education Foundation (BEF) seeks private contributions to supplement the public funding the schools receive. The Foundation's programs provide scholarships for graduating seniors, award grants to teachers that enable them to develop educational programs and projects, provide supplies for classrooms and reimburse tuition for district paraprofessionals who wish to continue their education. For more information, visit [www.browardedfoundation.net](http://www.browardedfoundation.net).

**About Kids in Need Foundation**

The Kids in Need Foundation is a national 501 (c )(3) charitable organization founded in 1995. The Foundation's mission is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed by providing free school supplies nationally to students most in need. Each year, 1.6 million children and 100,000 teachers benefit from this network. The Foundation has distributed more than \$350 million in schools supplies since its founding. For more information, visit [www.kinf.org](http://www.kinf.org). Follow Kids in Need on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/kidsinneed>.

**About Broward County Public Schools**

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is the nation's sixth largest public school system and the largest fully accredited district with over 234,600 students in more than 230 schools and education centers. For more information about BCPS, visit ([www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)). Follow BCPS on Twitter (@Broward schools). Find us on Facebook at ([www.facebook.com/browardschools](http://www.facebook.com/browardschools)).

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