

Kids In Need

Connection

April 2007



Kids In Need
Foundation



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Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of *Kids In Need Connection*—a newsletter dedicated to sharing the works and recognizing the supporters of the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation!

The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a national non-profit organization providing school supplies to impoverished children and under-funded teachers. A 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1995 by the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA), 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.

Did you know... 13 million children live below the poverty level in this country? Their parents are forced to choose between providing necessities and giving their kids the "luxury" of school

From the Director

Welcome to the initial issue of the "Kids In Need Connection." Our intention is to keep you, our current and potential supporters, "connected" to the Foundation several times a year. The mission of the Foundation is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed by providing free school supplies nationally to students most in need. This is not a once or twice a year endeavor but a year-round challenge, and, therefore, we want you "connected" on a regular basis.

The Foundation is currently in its 12th year of operation and has distributed nearly \$250 million in free school supplies during that time. We directly

supplies. Teachers spend between \$500 and \$1,000 of their own money annually to purchase school supplies for their students.



The National Network of Kids In Need Resource Centers includes 23 facilities that allow teachers from low-income schools to obtain free school supplies for their students. In addition, Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for students. More than \$771,000 in Teacher Grants has been awarded to teachers across the country.

benefit 1.5 million students and 100,000 teachers annually. While we know the Foundation is making a difference, we have a long way to go. There are 13 million children in the United States who live at or below the poverty line.

We sincerely thank all our donors for their past and future support and encourage all potential donors to help us make a difference in the lives of these needy children. Please contact me or any staff member to make corporate and personal financial or product donations.

-Dave Smith, Director

April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week

"I want to say thank you so loud that everybody can hear me. You gave me the only surprise I ever had. Thank you for your support." Shanetris, age 9

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*"Many in my classes don't have adequate tools needed for success in school. They would rather accept a zero than admit why a project was not done."
Marlene, Teacher*

Resource Center News

The 2007 Core Products Campaign for National Product Sponsors is underway! The goal is to establish a steady supply of the six core school supplies to the entire network of 23 Resource Centers.

Markers, pencils, pens, filler paper, glue sticks, and crayons have been established as the six Core Products absolutely necessary in the classroom. A National Product Sponsorship is an opportunity for

highly visible corporate giving while providing the core supplies to students across the country.

Thank you to Dixon Ticonderoga, who is already participating in the campaign through their donation of one pallet of pencils to each Center annually.

For more information about becoming a National Product Sponsor, please contact Jennifer Lehman at jenl@shopa.org.

Target Makes the Season Bright!

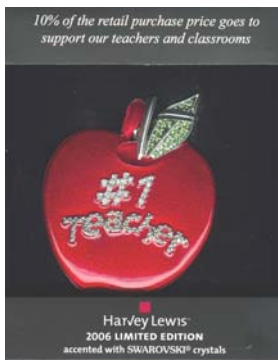
Ten percent of the proceeds from the 2006 Harvey Lewis Limited Edition Red #1 Teacher Ornament sold exclusively at Target has been donated to the Kids In Need Foundation.

It was like the holidays all over again when the Foundation received

a check for **more than \$29,000!**

Thanks to Target for supporting the Foundation, and thanks to all who purchased this beautiful ornament.

What a way to make the holiday season last!



Walden Media Provides Teachers with Classics

Two literary classics, *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, and *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson, have recently made their appearance on the "big screen." Through the Kids In Need Foundation, Walden Media generously provided 10,000

Teacher's Edition books and 10,000 Educator's Guides during the release of *Charlotte's Web*, and over 25,000 Teacher's Guides and Educational Posters during the release of *Bridge to Terabithia*. A timeless gift for classrooms across the country!



Thank You, Donors!

An enthusiastic "THANK YOU!" to all of the following companies and individuals who have made product or financial donations to the Kids In Need Foundation between January 1 and February 28, 2007:

Acme United
ADMA
ADOC Systems
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Mr. Richard Bere
Mr. Sean Clark
Class Act Stationery & Accessories
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