

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STAPLES SELECTED FOR 2005 SHOPA KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION  
AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**DAYTON, OH – February 1, 2005** – In recognition of corporate support for a national program to provide students and teachers with school supplies, the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation Award for Educational Excellence will be presented to Staples, Inc. Staples has been selected based on its support of the SHOPA Foundation's Kids In Need program. Kids In Need Resource Centers provide free school supplies to students and teachers in low-income, under-funded school districts. Staples will formally accept the award at a recognition gala on Wednesday, November 9, the first night of Paperworld USA in Las Vegas.

“As a major contributor to the Kids In Need program, Staples is assisting us in providing basic tools needed to succeed in the classroom for more than 1.1 million children each year,” said Scott Walters, executive director of the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation.

“We recognize that the Kids In Need program is truly fostering educational excellence, a mission Staples and the Staples Foundation for Learning greatly value,” said Dave Perron,

Staples and other companies that are members of the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA) make monetary and product donations to the SHOPA Foundation, which distributes school supplies through a national network of Kids In Need Resource Centers. The “free stores” are currently located in Atlanta, Beaumont (TX), Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Ft. Lauderdale, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Newark, New York City, Orlando, Phoenix, Scarborough (ME), Seattle, St. Louis, Tampa, and Washington, D.C. Additional centers are planned for other markets.

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**STAPLES RECIPIENT OF SHOPA FOUNDATION AWARD**

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Teachers from schools that meet the eligibility requirements shop at the centers for school supplies needed by their students, alleviating the burden on teachers who often assume the responsibility of providing supplies for children in need. Teachers spend an average of \$530 per year on supplies for their students. Kids In Need Resource Centers provide school supplies at no charge to the teachers, the students, the schools, or the school districts.

Staples is headquartered in Framingham, Massachusetts. (Staples boilerplate)

The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1995 and is funded by donations from SHOPA member companies and other corporations and individuals interested in supporting education in the United States. Besides the Kids In Need Resource Centers, the SHOPA Foundation offers grants to teachers for innovative classroom projects and offers backpack giveaway projects. The Foundation's mission is to recognize, promote, and support initiatives that foster educational excellence.

SHOPA, founded in 1991, is a nonprofit trade association representing approximately 1,300 manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, commercial/contract stationers, and service companies involved in the production, distribution, and sale of school supplies and office products through mass retail and commercial channels.

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