



## The Kids Ecology Corps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Local schools benefit from grants awarded by The Florida Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Grant Program**

August 7, 2007 (Fort Lauderdale, FL) – The Kids Ecology Corps is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives. Recently the organization completed its third grant from the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program administered by the Florida Division of Forestry. These grants helped to fund a Program Manager position created to develop, design and implement their newest eco-educational program, *Kids Care about Our Trees*.

The Florida Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program provided significant funding for this position over the past three years. From 2004 - 2007, the grants awarded to The Kids Ecology Corps totaled \$65,000. These grants enabled The Kids Ecology Corps to hire Nici Daw, a previous volunteer and environmental activist.

Over the course of three years, Ms. Daw has been instrumental in developing the KEC program *Kids Care about Our Trees* which included in-depth learning manuals for teachers and students and learning modules tailored to K – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. She oversaw the design, development and implementation of two outdoor learning centers – one at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Florida and the other at the north campus of Broward Community College. The two projects involved more than 140 elementary, high school and college students in hands-on planting. During the course of her three-year tenure in this position, Daw has trained 4 KEC volunteers and staff to give the *Kids Care about Our Trees* presentations. Collectively they have educated over 5,000 young people in Broward and Palm Beach County schools about urban forestry and the benefits of native trees in over 40 schools and summer programs.

The environmental restoration and education projects associated with the *Kids Care about Our Trees* program are just some of many community projects undertaken by The Kids Ecology Corps, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them. KEC has reached over 57,000 young people from pre-k through high school, offering unique hands-on presentations and eco-action programs that educate children and youth about: the benefits of trees in urban environments; keeping our oceans clean; the role re-planting our coastal wetlands plays in beach conservation; water conservation; pollution prevention; global climate change and energy conservation; and, protecting local natural habitats for native wildlife. Visit them at [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org) or contact The Kids Ecology Corps at [kec@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:kec@kidsecologycorps.org). The team can be reached at Tel.: 954-524-0366 for further information on becoming a volunteer or to schedule an environmental education presentation or eco-action project at your school.

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