

### **Community Camp children become “Funky Fish” and snorkel for the first time**

September 7, 2007 (Fort Lauderdale, FL) – Recently, a group of fourth and fifth graders from Carter Park Community Summer Camp got to experience their very first “Visit to the Reef” snorkeling trip off the shores of Pompano Beach. For most of the 19 kids ranging in ages from nine to eleven, this was their first time visiting the beach and swimming in the ocean. For all of the children, this was their very first boat trip and their first time learning to use a snorkel mask and fins with Funky Fish diving staff.

The experience of learning to snorkel, traveling three miles off the coast on a glass bottom boat and swimming with colorful tropical fish had a great impact on these new divers. “This was the best field trip ever!” said Darrien Mash, age 9.

David Deal, Recreation Program Coordinator for The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department, joined the kids on their maiden voyage and acted as a snorkeling assistant for the day. Mr. Deal expressed his enthusiasm about the joint project. “This was a great opportunity for the kids to learn about the different types of life that live in the ocean! Our kids can’t wait to do this again!”

This environmental outreach program was organized by The Kids Ecology Corps and funded by Community Foundation of Broward and The A.D. Henderson Foundation. Recently, Community Foundation of Broward awarded The Kids Ecology Corps the \$10,000 grant for the reef visit and to continue KEC’s educational program, “Keep It Cool: Kids Care About Our Oceans”.

Because of this program’s success, recently The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation agreed to fund a matching grant to The Kids Ecology Corps with the goal of continuing their “Visit to the Reef” program and its “Keep It Cool” eco-educational components. Initial funding for The Kids Ecology Corps presentations came from the generous support of The Sun Sentinel Children’s Fund, a long-standing supporter of The Kids Ecology Corps.

The Kids Ecology Corps is 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: keeping our oceans clean; the importance of trees; 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 to volunteer or to schedule an education or eco-action presentation at your school.

Funky Fish offers snorkeling tours, scuba day camps and adventurous trips for kid and adults. They can be reached at 954-712-9900 or on the web at [www.funkyfishkidsday.com](http://www.funkyfishkidsday.com)

###