

June 5, 2001

Ms. Jacqueline V. Pepper, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZE THE KIDS 4 KIDS CLUB FOR ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Kids 4 Kids Club, whose mission is to engage children in community service, to instill a sense of civic responsibility and to increase self-esteem, was the brainstorm of teacher Beth Davis of Jack D. Gordon Elementary School. The club was established after the school's second very successful Fill A Backpack Campaign that resulted in 1,500 backpacks filled with school supplies being distributed to children in our community's homeless shelters, to abused children in protective custody and to children with HIV/AIDS.

The club meets weekly before school to initiate community service projects, projects that are gifts of love from Kids 4 Kids, and have included both Valentine's Day and Halloween goody bags, cards and coloring books for young cancer patients, books and beanie babies, Thanksgiving baskets with turkey and all the trimmings, toiletry items for hurricane victims and canned food drives. Students participating in these activities learn that the only difference between homeless children and them is that they have a home to live in.

One especially innovative project was the Family Portrait Program which allowed homeless kids to have family photographs, something they can't afford. Over 100 families were photographed and a free portrait package with 8 photos was delivered to each of the families prior to Christmas. As such projects demonstrate, club members strive to be a ray of sunshine for kids who cannot always see the sun.

In 1998, Kids 4 Kids won a national Unsung Heroes award. The \$12,000 grant was used to start new clubs in other schools and to buy more backpacks for the homeless.

This fine organization deserves the Board's accolades. Therefore, it is asked that we bestow special recognition upon the Kids 4 Kids Club by presenting it with a certificate of achievement at this Board meeting.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. JACQUELINE V. PEPPER: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize the Kids 4 Kids Club for its continuing commitment to the children of our community.

JVP:rr