

Management and Accountability
Carol Cortes, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO INVOLVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN A COUNTYWIDE CANNED FOOD DRIVE, SPONSORED BY DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK, INC., FROM OCTOBER 15, 2001 THROUGH NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, through its Executive Director Manuel Allende, has requested Miami-Dade County Public Schools assistance once again in the organization's countywide food collection drive. The "Make a Difference" campaign, now conducted by Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., will supply food to the hungry in Miami-Dade County during the Thanksgiving holiday, a time when many schools traditionally conduct food drives. Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., also receives assistance for this project through county and municipal fire and police departments, community agencies, private corporations and other interested groups and individuals. This has been an effective program for the past 25 years.

Since January 1976, Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., has provided more than 19 million meals to needy families throughout South Florida. This year, its goal is to provide 24,000 family meal boxes during Thanksgiving. In order to attain this goal, Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc. needs the support of the school system.

It is proposed that Miami-Dade County Public Schools assist Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., in this project by authorizing and encouraging canned food drives in schools from October 15, 2001 through November 16, 2001. Individual school participation would be voluntary. Implementation within schools would occur as follows:

1. October 15, 2001 through November 16, 2001, the proposed collection of canned goods would take place. Students, teachers, staff members and parents would be encouraged to bring canned goods to a designated area at each participating school.
2. November 5, 2001 through November 16, 2001, Miami-Dade County Public Schools' maintenance trucks would pick up the canned goods from participating schools and deliver them to a predetermined collection site.

The Board has directed staff to find ways to give students greater opportunities for involvement in community service. Participating in the "Make a Difference" program is an excellent way to pursue this objective. Contingent upon Board approval, the Bureau of Community Services will coordinate activities related to Miami-Dade County Public Schools participation in this program.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to involve Miami-Dade County Public Schools in a countywide canned food drive, sponsored by Daily Bread Food Bank, Inc., from October 15, 2001 through November 16, 2001.

CC:AMB:swc