

Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO INVOLVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AN EMERGENCY DISTRICT-WIDE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE CHARLEY, SPONSORED BY FARM SHARE AND NEIGHBORS4NEIGHBORS FROM AUGUST 18 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2004**

Farm Share and Neighbors4Neighbors, not-for-profit organizations, have requested Miami-Dade County Public Schools' participation in a District-wide non-perishable food collection drive to assist the victims of Hurricane Charley.

It is proposed that Miami-Dade County Public Schools assist Farm Share & Neighbors4Neighbors, in this project by authorizing and encouraging non-perishable food drives at all locations from August 18 through September 3, 2004. Individual participation would be voluntary. Implementation would occur as follows:

1. August 18 through September 3, 2004, the proposed collection of non-perishable food would take place. Students, employees, and parents would be encouraged to bring identified non-perishable goods to a designated area at each participating location.
2. Beginning August 26, 2004, locations may arrange for pick-up of collected goods by calling Ms. Lourdes Wilthew at 305-246-3276. Neighbors4Neighbors volunteers will pick up goods from participating locations and deliver them to Farm Share for distribution. One-day notice is necessary to arrange for pick up of goods.
3. Items being requested are canned stews (all in one meals preferred), canned meats, fish & vegetables.
4. Miami-Dade County Public Schools will be recognized as one of the supporters of this emergency relief effort in all public release announcements by the sponsoring organizations.

Contingent upon Board approval, the Bureau of Community and Hospitality Services will coordinate activities related to Miami-Dade Public Schools' participation in this program.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda to expedite acceptance, due to severe need of food caused by the devastation of Hurricane Charley to our neighboring communities.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to involve Miami-Dade County Public Schools in a voluntary emergency non-perishable District-wide food drive, effective August 18 through September 3, 2004.

RFC:hr