

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-124 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 19, 2009 AS HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HOMELESS TRUST FOR THEIR DISTINGUISHED EFFORTS TO END HOMELESSNESS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

At a Press Conference held on October 1, 2009, Mr. Ron Book, the Chairman of The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, unveiled the new Comprehensive Public Awareness and Public Information Campaign to End Homelessness. This campaign focuses on Romero Brito decorated meters, cardboard "end homelessness" brigades, Homeless for a Day fundraising, school awareness activities and other events. In addition to revealing the plan to provide accessible collection devices for giving spare change to end homelessness, plans for the distribution of new Helpline cards were unveiled. The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust is launching the awareness and fund raising campaign as part of the national awareness week. To highlight this campaign, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust will recognize Thursday, November 19, 2009 as Homeless Awareness Day.

To support this worthwhile community effort, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will be participating in the Homeless Awareness Day Campaign as a part of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week scheduled for November 15-22, 2009. The goal of this campaign is that students and school personnel become aware of and sensitive to the needs of homeless people in our schools and our community. Schools have been provided with a list of suggested activities including participating in Cardboard Brigades, Creating Awareness Fence Displays, Airing of the Homeless Trust...It Can Happen to You Video, Developing Poster Displays, Writing School Newspaper Editorials, and Airing Morning Announcements recognizing Homeless Awareness Day.

H-10

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-124 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing November 19, 2009 as Homeless Awareness Day and acknowledging The Homeless Trust for their distinguished efforts to end homelessness.

MRF:dm

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-124
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes that lack of food and stable housing are daily facts of life for thousands of students in our district; and

WHEREAS, The Miami-Dade County Public School's Homeless Children and Youth Program has been continuously providing services to homeless students since 1992. This program is federally funded through state allocations and Title 1.

WHEREAS, homelessness is also an issue of great concern with an estimated 2,500 students experiencing homelessness during the 2009-2010 school year, thus far; and

WHEREAS, The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust was created in 1993 by the Board of County Commissioners and currently funds local non-profits who provide over 100 housing and service programs for more than 19,000 people per year; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Dade County Homeless Trust, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is diligently working with its many partners to implement a plan to end homelessness and develop the needed resources to create the affordable housing and supportive services that will prevent or eliminate homelessness in our region; and

WHEREAS, no student in this county should go to bed hungry or without a safe place to live, and while government, congregations, social service agencies, and hundreds of volunteers are working every day to feed and house those most in need, more help and solutions are still needed; and

WHEREAS, The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools join together to sponsor National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week every year; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will be launching a Homeless Awareness Day Campaign on Thursday, November 19, 2009

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-124 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing November 19, 2009 as Homeless Awareness Day and acknowledging the Homeless Trust for their distinguished efforts to end homelessness.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this seventeenth day of November, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary