Walt Disney World News

For Kids' Sake: Disney Offers $1.5 Million in Grants to Local Nonprofits

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Dec. 20, 2011 – Throughout the year, Walt Disney World Resort works with charities throughout Central Florida to build better futures for local children. As the new year approaches, a total of $1.5 million in financial support is available for eligible local nonprofits through the 2012 Disney *Helping Kids Shine* Grants program.

"Disney is always looking for ways to invest in community organizations that inspire and improve children's lives," said Nancy Gidusko, director of community relations for Walt Disney World Resort. "We believe that through these organizations, children build a strong foundation so they may thrive as capable citizens with the confidence to reach their highest potential. The return on that investment is immeasurable."

Disney *Helping Kids Shine* Grants applications are being accepted now through Jan. 31, 2012. Eligible nonprofit organizations in Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Polk and Lake counties are encouraged to apply. Grant awards may range from $10,000-$75,000, and will be distributed in spring 2012.

New this year, the program has revised guidelines to reflect a focus on children and families in three major areas: creativity and innovation; caring for ourselves, our community, our world; and caring neighbor. Applications and more details are available online at www.disneyurl.com/2012dhksgrants.

In May 2011, Walt Disney World Resort gave a total of $1.2 million in Disney *Helping Kids Shine* Grants to 62 nonprofits and school districts. Since 1972, Disney has honored local organizations that benefit children with cash awards totaling more than $12 million.