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RECYCLE CENTER PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR ART TEACHERS

Naples, Florida (October 24, 2011) – The United Arts Council is seeking donations of art supplies for the *Tools for Schools* recycle center. The center serves as a resource for Collier County public school art teachers. The program enables the community to preserve resources through recycling and provides free supplies for teachers in the arts.

The People We Impact:

With public schools tightening their belts, teachers in “the arts” (painting, music, theatre, photography, film, etc.) increasingly find that it is difficult to find money to buy the supplies they need for a full school year. The United Arts Council often gets calls from teachers who have run out of supplies and are seeking donations.

Some donations go directly to gifted students. There’s the child who has a real talent for art, but can’t afford supplies to practice at home. Or, the young teen with a passion for photography, but whose family can’t afford to buy the equipment they need to pursue their passion. These talented students are the real winners with this program. Teachers can identify students in need and secure supplies and equipment for them through the center.

The Program:

The *Tools for Schools* center is located in the United Arts Council office in Naples. Elaine Hamilton, executive director of the Council, indicates, “We focus exclusively on the needs of teachers in the various arts disciplines. The Center has been very busy during its first four years of operation, with merchandise donations from the public and great feedback from the teachers.”

The public is asked to donate unwanted materials and surplus supplies. They focus on art supplies and related equipment that can be used in the arts classroom. Musical instruments and other supplies for music teachers are also welcomed.

Background:

Establishing recycling centers as resources for teachers is a proven program; in fact, hundreds of centers are operating very successfully in cities throughout the U.S. now. The United Arts Council

conducted considerable research and secured information from other successful centers that were incorporated into the local center.

What We Need:

The Center needs art supplies and materials that can be used in art projects. They also accept donations of items for music classrooms and school theater productions. They do not accept everyday recyclables that you would normally put in your home's recycle container. Hamilton indicates, "The teachers are able to collect egg cartons, Styrofoam, and plastics from parents." The Recycle Center accepts cash donations for purchasing discounted supplies and help with maintenance costs related to the Center.

Needs include:

- Paints, brushes and pastels
- Marker pens and colored pencils
- Construction paper, photo paper
- Poster board and foam core boards
- Scissors and matt cutters
- Plastic and wood scraps
- Stickers
- Sheet music and instrumental CD's
- Small musical instruments;
- Costumes and props for drama classes
- Cameras (digital, 35mm and disposable) and film

About the United Arts Council:

For the Center's hours, directions and more information about donations, call the United Arts Council at 263-8242.

The United Arts Council is designated by the state of Florida as the official local arts agency for Collier County. The non-profit agency is responsible for promoting arts and culture in the county. For more information, visit: www.collierarts.com.

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