

PRESS RELEASE

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Take Stock in Children Promotion Raises Funds at Pasco Tax Collector's Office

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano announces that \$1,081.68 was raised at the five tax collector offices in Pasco County for *Take Stock in Children* during the month of March. *Take Stock in Children's* mission is to provide a comprehensive program that combines the elements of scholarships, mentors and hope with the intent of breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

Take Stock in Children's charitable check-off was the focus of the promotion. The program, although available in all 67 Florida counties, has a major presence in Pasco County. 450 at-risk students have been served with a 96% success rate. 95% of those students are the first members of their family to attend college. Donations raised during the promotion will be earmarked specifically for an important college preparation test for certain high school students.

"Take Stock in Children is honored to be part of the Charity of the Month program at the Pasco Tax Collector's office," states **Roseanne Heyser, Executive Director** of Pasco's *Take Stock in Children*. "The funds received will be used towards a 6-hour ACT prep class and ACT prep workbooks for all 30 TSIC scholars who will be in 11th grade in 2016. Improving ACT scores will assist these students to get or improve funding from Florida's Bright Futures, increase opportunities for other

scholarships / financial aid as well as better the chances of acceptance into the college of their choice.”

Students can enroll in the program as early as the 8th grade. *Take Stock in Children* offers college or vocational school scholarships, volunteer mentors who provide guidance and encouragement, a college success coach to support the student’s educational endeavors and college readiness resources and career counseling. Funds raised throughout the year help send Pasco County students to college with 100% used for scholarships and readiness services. Additionally, 100% of scholarship donations are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

“It was an honor to help *Take Stock in Children* and the students they serve during this promotional campaign,” states **Tax Collector Mike Fasano**. “I have often said that it is a top priority to provide opportunities for the future leaders of our community by providing the best education possible. The funds raised during this campaign will help many of these students prepare for one of the most important college entrance exams they may be facing. I thank the community who gave so generously and the staff of the various tax offices who worked hard to raise money for this important program.”

For additional information about *Take Stock in Children* please feel free to contact **Roseanne Heyser, Executive Director** at (813)-794-2134 or visit www.pascoeducationfoundation.org For more details about programs, promotions and services at the Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office please feel free to contact Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations at (727) 847-8179 or visit www.pascotaxes.com