



PRESS RELEASE

Aventura City of Excellence School

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ACES Special Events/Projects

ACES COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Aventura City of Excellence School, ACES earned a National Promising Practices Character Education Award for its' "Community Care Outreach Program, which Provides Students' with Opportunities for Moral Action."

The ACES Community Care Outreach Program, ties the ACES Curriculum into the Living Values Character Education Program to engage students in projects that impact the world around them. Students serve as role models for each other and for the community as they practice living 12 core values, which are communicated and reinforced in the AM Show and in monthly programs. Through student-selected service projects, ACES students celebrate their commitment to values by launching fundraisers to aid Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetics in Africa, Heart Disease and Cancer Research. Local sponsors gave money for each book ACES students read in the "Read to Feed" program, which directed funds to poor families seeking economic independence. Infused with a sense of pride and social responsibility, ACES students, families and staff members unite to demonstrate skills that "make a difference" at ACES and in the world.

Principal, Julie Alm said, "We are very proud of ACES students' contribution to our community. ACES raised and donated over \$42,000 to charities worldwide. ACES "Whole Child" approach supports learning by placing students at the center of their own learning experience. Our students discover at a very young age the importance of being socially responsible, caring and contributing citizens. ACES excels in student achievement, community involvement and innovative practices, while caring for our families, our community and our students' individual needs."

ACES participates with the City of Aventura in International Peace Day, Founder's Day, the Dare Program, Arbor Day Celebration, and in the Holiday Toy Drive. ACES gets involved in meaningful Aventura Marketing Council events such as the "Aventura Mall Freedom Walk" program designed to bring awareness to 911 and to soldiers serving overseas. Guests from the community are invited to speak at ACES for special occasions; such as the Holocaust Remembrance Day, African American History Month, Women's History Month, Middle School Leadership Speaker Series and International Peace Day. The ACES community experiences a sense of unity and satisfaction for their efforts as they strive to be socially responsible and to "give back."

ACES Special Events/Projects Director, Leslie Loewenthal leads the Community Care Outreach Program. Leslie said, "ACES is a very unique environment. The City of Aventura and ACES administration have created a prototype of best practices in quality education."