



For Immediate Release

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SHOPA KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dayton, OH – September 20, 2005 – The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is pleased to announce that Kathleen L. Spencer has been appointed to the position of executive director. The hiring of Ms. Spencer is the result of an extensive nationwide search to fill the position left vacant since the end of May. She assumed her duties on September 16.

“Ms. Spencer stood out among the many candidates as the person who will continue the positive growth being experienced by the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation,” said Paul Bierhaus, Lockermate Corporation, chair of the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation Board of Directors. “Her background as an educator and her success as a fundraiser and administrator are particularly valuable assets.”

Most recently, Ms. Spencer was the executive director of the Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, OH, where she built the foundation from just a concept with less than \$500,000 to a viable, vibrant entity with over \$80 million in assets, expanded the mission and purpose, and added charitable giving vehicles that increased the donor base by 2,000 percent. While serving as the executive director, Ms. Spencer was awarded the “Bene Merenti” by Pope John Paul II for outstanding service to the church and community, the highest Papal Award conferred to non-Catholics.

Ms. Spencer's 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector also include positions with the Mount Carmel Health Foundation and the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Prior to her career as a nonprofit administrator, Ms. Spencer was a high school and junior high school English teacher.

Ms. Spencer holds a master of fine arts degree in arts administration from Ohio University and a bachelor of fine arts degree from Illinois Wesleyan University.

SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a national non-profit organization providing school supplies to impoverished children and under-funded teachers. A 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1995 by the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA), the Foundation's mission is to recognize, promote, and support initiatives that foster educational excellence. The National Network of Kids in Need Resource Centers includes 21 facilities that allow teachers from low-income schools to obtain free school supplies for their students. Now in its tenth year, the SHOPA Kids in Need Foundation has distributed more than \$150 million in school supplies, directly benefiting 1.1 million students and 65,000 teachers annually. In addition, Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for students. For more information, visit www.kidsinneed.net.

SHOPA, founded in 1991, is a nonprofit trade association representing nearly 1,200 manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, commercial/contract stationers, and service companies involved in the production, distribution, and sale of school supplies and office products. The Association also produces SBTS (SHOPA Buyer-to-Seller) Marketplace events, which facilitate pre-scheduled and one-on-one meetings. SHOPA, in cooperation with Messe Frankfurt and PROPAPER, is producing Paperworld USA in November, the international trade event for the school and office products industry. For more information, visit www.shopa.org.

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