



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JO-ANN STORES DONATES MORE THAN FOUR MILLION DOLLARS IN PRODUCT  
TO SHOPA KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION**

**DAYTON, OH -- SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 --** Jo-Ann Stores, Inc., the leading national fabric and craft retailer, headquartered in Hudson, OH, has donated more than \$4.2 million worth of product to the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation. The donation of nearly 1.4 million skeins of yarn has been distributed to the Foundation's national network of Resource Centers and other free stores that provide school supplies to children and teachers throughout the U.S.

"Jo-Ann Stores' product donation will allow teachers across the country to develop and conduct creative projects in their classrooms," said Travis Smith, executive vice president, Merchandising and Marketing for Jo-Ann Stores, Inc. "As a company, Jo-Ann heartily believes in encouraging the creative spirit in children and their teachers and making sure that students have the materials necessary to express themselves."

"A donation this generous is greatly appreciated by the Foundation and by the people who operate the Resource Centers we support," said John Ferenczy, director of gifts in kind for the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation. "This will make a great impact on the types of activities teachers are able to do with students in the classrooms. Kids remember special projects and activities, and they will be able to make things with this yarn that will be treasured for years."

The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation accepts donations of school supplies and arts and crafts materials to provide to the teachers who visit the 21 Resource Centers located in Atlanta, Beaumont (TX), Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Newark, New York, North Texas, Orlando, Phoenix, Scarborough (ME), Seattle, South Florida, St. Louis,

Tampa, and Washington, D.C. Teachers from designated low-income schools in or near those cities are invited to the Centers to shop for supplies needed by their students. No teacher, student, or school district is ever charged for the supplies.

Jo-Ann Stores has been a sponsor of SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation for the past four years and is also a national sponsor of Kids In Need Teacher Grants, a program of the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation that awards grants to teachers for innovative classroom projects.

#### **About Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.**

**Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.**, the leading national fabric and craft retailer with locations in 47 states, operates more than 800 Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts traditional stores and Jo-Ann superstores, as of August 2006. Jo-Ann offers customers the choice, quality, style and support needed to express their creativity. For additional information, visit [www.joann.com](http://www.joann.com).

#### **About SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation**

**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. In addition, Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for students. The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation has distributed more than \$200 million in school supplies since its founding, directly benefiting 1.3 million students and 75,000 teachers annually, and has awarded more than \$660,000 in grants to teachers. For more information, visit [www.kidsinneed.net](http://www.kidsinneed.net).

#### **About SHOPA**

**SHOPA**, founded in 1991, is a nonprofit trade association representing nearly 900 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](http://www.shopa.org).