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Kids In Need Foundation Directs Supplies to Coastal Mississippi *Hurricane Devastation Brings Out the Best in Corporations Helping Kids, Teachers*

CINCINNATI, OH – December 15, 2005 – The sensational headlines of recent hurricane devastation may be long gone, but the need remains – particularly when it comes to rebuilding schools and the lives of students. One foundation has sought to make a difference in the wake of recent hurricanes by using partner companies' existing resources in combination with donated money and time to return a sense of "normalcy" to everyday learning.

The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a national non-profit organization that provides free school supplies to children and teachers in low income schools. In cooperation with the US Department of Education, the Foundation has worked with its partners to bring school supplies to those truly in need. In the weeks and months after the hurricanes, the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation partnered with the Educational Service Agency and Zeon Chemical Company to distribute hundreds of truckloads of donated school supplies from OfficeMax, Avery Dennison, MeadWestvaco, and other companies. The donated fleet of Zeon trucks has transported supplies to Zeon's Hattiesburg site, which is being used as a temporary distribution center for supplies going to impacted schools.

Getting affected students in coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi back to school with all the tools they need has been an effort that included the vital resources of a number of organizations. SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation has led the way in garnering needed school products for distribution, while OfficeMax has been a major donor for the project and Zeon Chemical has spearheaded the transportation and housing of the product. The US Department of Education has identified the schools most in need of supplies.

"Because of the unprecedented damage caused by this year's hurricanes, so many schools have, and will continue to have, supply needs that are difficult for them to fund," said Kristine Cohn, who was selected by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to lead matchmaking efforts between affected schools and donors. "This distribution center became a reality because of Zeon Chemicals' generosity and the SHOPA Kids in Need Foundation's excellent relationships with school and office supply manufacturers and retailers. We are so grateful to them for helping to ensure that the children affected by the hurricanes won't be left behind in their education."

"This is what we constantly strive to accomplish – to partner with businesses that can donate their existing resources to truly make a difference," Kids In Need Executive Director Kathy Spencer said. "Zeon Chemical has done wonderful things for the teachers and children affected by the recent devastation and OfficeMax has truly opened up its resources to us to get much-needed supplies to these kids. I am so proud of these organizations and it's an untold story that needs to be shared."

Erin Bomgaars, manager of community relations, OfficeMax, echoes Spencer's sentiments. "We recognize the importance of the united efforts of the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and organizations in Mississippi and Texas to provide school supplies to children in areas devastated by recent hurricanes. SHOPA member companies, employees, and other friends are invited to donate product and funds through the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation. Donated funds and product will be used exclusively to make sure that the areas

that have been affected by the hurricanes are furnished with the supplies they need to have a productive school year.”

About the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation

The 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 \$200 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.

About SHOPA

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, home, and office products industry. For more information, visit www.shopa.org.

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Editors Note:

Spencer available for interview

Hi-res photos available