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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BEAUTIFUL HOMES RAISE \$72,500 FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS**

**DELRAY BEACH, FL (March 18, 2009)** – Eight beautiful homes and gorgeous weather brought a record 600 guests to the 2009 Delray Beach Home Tour hosted by the Achievement Centers for Children & Families Foundation. The Centers' signature fundraiser held on March 5<sup>th</sup> raised a record \$72,500 for the agency's programs and services that help at-risk, low-income children and families in Delray.

The Home Tour began in 2002 and has become an increasingly popular event drawing people from all over South Florida and beyond. The 2009 event was held in the Palm Trail neighborhood and featured homes with a variety of design styles. From eclectic contemporary to British West Indies influences, the homes catered to everyone's tastes and interests. South Florida Trolley transported guests to the homes and the luncheon was catered by Ciao Sidewalk Café. Over \$10,000 in raffle prizes from beautiful jewelry to travel packages were given away.

"I am overwhelmed by the countless people who came together to organize this wonderful event," comments Nancy Hurd, Chief Executive Officer of the Achievement Centers. "Every year their hard work and dedication to the home tour surpasses our expectations." Hurd adds, "We could not host this event and raise this money without the help of our volunteers, the gracious homeowners who opened their doors and our devoted committee. I am deeply grateful."

The event was again chaired by Kari Shipley, a Board member and long-time supporter of the Achievement Centers. The Title Sponsor was E. Anthony Wilson & HHC Florida; additional sponsors include Kolter Communities, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Searcy Denny Scarola Barnhart & Shipley PA, The Colony Hotel & Cabana Club, and Gulfstream Business Bank.

The 2010 Home Tour will be held on March 11, 2010. For information about volunteering, please contact the Achievement Centers' Foundation office at (561) 266-0003.

**ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:** The Achievement Centers for Children & Families is a non-profit social services agency that provides comprehensive services to educate, train, and support at-risk children, youth and families ensuring school readiness, skill and capacity building opportunities, higher academic performance, increased economic self-sufficiency and improved quality of family function with healthier lifestyles. Their award-winning services and NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accredited programs serve children, age 12 months to 18 years, and adults on two campuses. Programs include quality, affordable childcare, after school and extended day programs, teen programs, adult education and community outreach services. The Centers' main campus is located at 555 NW 4th Street in Delray Beach and the Beacon Center at Village Academy campus is located at 400 SW 12th Avenue. For more information about the Achievement Centers, call (561) 276-0520 or visit [www.delraychild.org](http://www.delraychild.org).

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**PHOTO CAPTION (Home Tour Final Number):** A record \$72,500 was raised at the 2009 Delray Beach Home Tour for the Achievement Centers' programs and services. The event has become a community favorite and

attracts over 600 guests. The preschool students celebrating are (from L to R) Hastrade Vixama, age 5, Kendrick Petty, age 5, Mia Sanders, age 5, Tavon Henry, age 5, Denison Touze, age 5, Makenzie Seibel, age 4, Griselle Oge-Cannon, age 4.

PHOTO CAPTION (**House with Car**): Eight beautiful homes were featured at the 2009 Delray Beach Home Tour. From eclectic contemporary to cottage warmth, a variety of design elements catered to everyone's tastes and interests.

PHOTO CAPTION (**Trolley Photo**): A record 600 people enjoyed the 2009 Delray Beach Home Tour. Guests wait for the trolley to transport them to the eight homes on the tour.

PHOTO CAPTION (**Home Tour Luncheon**): A Bermuda-style estate was the backdrop for the 2009 Delray Beach Home Tour luncheon. Over 600 guests enjoyed the luncheon catered by Ciao Sidewalk Café.