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11 TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN STUDENTS WILL STUDY ABROAD

Grants for study abroad have been awarded to eleven Take Stock in Children students from Monroe County. Students will travel to ten different countries and live with host families for three to five weeks.

Take Stock in Children is Florida's premiere mentoring and scholarship program for low-income students providing four year, fully paid college tuition scholarships.

"The students were hand picked by Experiment in International Living (EIL)," said Jim Hall, Monroe County's coordinator for Take Stock in Children.

"This is the second year we have collaborated with EIL. This wonderful opportunity became possible last year when Ms. Vera M. Shiff of Key West opened the door through her personal contacts with senior directors of EIL and brought them together with John Padgett whose advocacy, leadership and financial support has been so critical to the remarkable success of Take Stock in Children in Monroe County and elsewhere in Florida," Mr. Hall said.

"Funding for these eleven students for this unique opportunity is being provided by Nick & Suzie Trivisonno, the Padgett Foundation and the Monroe County Education Foundation, in collaboration with EIL," he added.

With eleven successful students, Monroe County scored very well in 2008 as only about 1,000 students from the entire U.S. were selected by EIL for this summer's program.

EIL is an acknowledged leader in cross-cultural education for high school students, having sponsored more than 70,000 participants over its 75 years in this work. Its purpose is to challenge young people to open their hearts and minds to the world and programs now operate in 27 nations where participating students are immersed in the daily life of another culture.

“Our students will leave the last week in June and will travel to China, Japan, South Africa, France, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Thailand, and Italy and are now busy getting their vaccinations and travel documents,” Hall said.

Eight of the students are from Key West High School, one is from Marathon High School and two are from Coral Shores High School.

Following are the names and destinations of the students:

Key West High School

**Dina Delva, France
Aracely Gonzalez, Japan
Tylor Wilhide, Mexico
Jesse Hammers, Australia
Jennifer Roberts, Poland
Reva Labbe, Thailand
Corrinne Haskins, New Zealand
Dora Cajina, China**

Marathon High School

Adonis Aviles, Australia

Coral Shores High School

**Gabriela Roude, South Africa
Erica Mora, Italy**