

Lunch Honors Take Stock in Children Mentors

Potential Mentors Also Invited to Attend

By Yurianna Mikolay
Ocean Reef Foundation Administrator

The Ocean Reef Foundation invites the community to attend a lunch honoring volunteers who mentor young people in the Upper Keys Take Stock in Children program, which helps low income children graduate from high school and attend college. The lunch takes place on Monday, March 2 at 11:30 a.m. in the Cultural Center Heritage Rooms.

In addition to the complimentary luncheon, representatives from the Take Stock in Children program will be on hand, along with the current mentors being honored, to

discuss their experiences with the program and answer the questions of potential mentors in attendance.

Take Stock in Children provides four-year college tuition scholarships and educational counseling to selected low-income students who sign a contract to keep their grades up, obey a code of conduct, stay crime and drug free and meet weekly with a mentor. Each dollar donated is matched by Florida companies and the state by an additional \$3, and 100 percent is designated to the area program benefiting students in the Upper Keys.

Each mentor makes the commitment to meet with his

or her student on a regular basis. With a focus on student success, mentors provide academic coaching, advice, support and friendship.

According to Keys Program Coordinator Jim Hall, Monroe County is a leader among Florida counties in level of participation and number of students who receive college scholarships,

“We would not be as successful as we are right now without Ocean Reef’s support,” he said.

For reservations to the Mentor Lunch, or to find out more about becoming a mentor, call the Foundation at 367-4707.