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**OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH FOR  
2007 HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES**

**DELRAY BEACH, FL (October 2007)** – The Office Depot Foundation – the independent foundation serving as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot (NYSE: ODP) – and the Delray Beach Downtown Marketing Cooperative announced today a partnership with the City of Delray Beach for its holiday festivities and First Night® 2008. The partnership centers on involving the community’s 1,200 seventh and eighth grade students in the holiday events and activities. The three schools with the highest percentage of participation throughout the season will be awarded a scholarship at the conclusion of the season.

“It’s important for each of us to ask how we can help to make our communities better,” says Mary Wong, President of the Office Depot Foundation (“Foundation”). “By supporting this outstanding project, we are making it possible for students to experience the excitement and satisfaction of volunteerism. We are delighted to provide them with this exceptional opportunity to have a great time with their friends, get an inside view of how this amazing tree is built, and bring joy and good cheer to thousands of people during the holiday season.”

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In the first component of this partnership, 400 students will participate in the construction of the Famous 100-Foot Christmas Tree. Students will receive instruction from a team of steel and electrical contractors on the mechanics of the construction. They will then work with the contractors, City employees and other volunteers on Tree-building activities including branching the Tree, checking light bulbs, arranging interior scenes and painting. Construction will begin on November 5 at Old School Square.

In the second component of this partnership, approximately 900 seventh and eighth graders will provide holiday entertainment at the Foundation's entertainment tent, located at Old School Square. This entertainment will take place at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning on November 30 and will continue through New Year's Eve. Other groups providing entertainment at the Tree will include community groups, churches and non-profit groups. If you have a group interested in providing entertainment, call Sarah Martin at (561) 279-1380 ext. 35.

The final component of this partnership will incorporate the students in First Night 2008 New Year's Eve Celebration. Students will help manage two activity sites at the event. There will be an exclusive party, Club 1231, at the First Night celebration for seventh and eighth grade students. The Foundation will present individual recognition awards and school-wide scholarships at its First Night tent.

"This is an opportunity for all of our seventh and eighth graders to participate and take ownership in the city's largest special event," says Delray Beach Mayor Rita Ellis. "Involving this group is a great way to show these students that they are valuable members of our community."

The Holiday Festivities in Delray Beach are produced by the Downtown Marketing Cooperative. The festivities are sponsored by the Office Depot Foundation, City of Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Meisner Electric, Eagle Metal Fabricators, Sun-Sentinel, Sunny 104.3 FM, Comcast Spotlight and Newschannel 5. For more information, call (561) 279-1380 ext. 17 or visit [www.DowntownDelrayBeach.com](http://www.DowntownDelrayBeach.com).

#### About the Office Depot Foundation

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care, the Foundation strives to make a positive impact on many lives in many communities around the world. The Foundation supports a variety of programs that enhance the quality of life for children, strengthen communities, encourage local and global economic growth, and empower schools and non-profit organizations. It also provides support when disasters strike – doing what it can, not only to speed the process of rebuilding, but also to mitigate the impact of future disasters. For more information about the Office Depot Foundation, visit [www.officedepotfoundation.org](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).

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About the Downtown Marketing Cooperative

The Delray Beach Downtown Marketing Cooperative is a partnership between the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Downtown Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Delray Beach. For more information about the Cooperative, call (561) 279-1380 ext. 17 or visit [www.DowntownDelrayBeach.com](http://www.DowntownDelrayBeach.com).

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Photo Cutlines

Photo #1: Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong spends time with students from the Beacon Center. The Beacon Center is one of the schools participating in this year's partnership between the Foundation and the City of Delray Beach.