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**OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION HONORS  
THREE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INDIVIDUALS  
WITH 2008 'LISTEN LEARN CARE' AWARDS**

*Presentations Made During December 12 Tropical Holiday Celebration*

**Boca Raton, Fla., December 23, 2008** – The Office Depot Foundation honored three individuals for their accomplishments in education, disaster recovery and the political arena with 2008 “Listen Learn Care” Awards during its Second Annual Tropical Holiday Celebration on December 12 in Boca Raton. The event raised funds to support the mission – Listen Learn Care™ – and priorities of the Office Depot Foundation, which serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot.

The awards program, which was introduced in 2007, highlights the Office Depot Foundation’s mission by honoring individuals who have demonstrated exceptional creativity and innovation in professional and community service, as well as in helping others to realize their goals. The honorees included:

- **Tierney Cahill**, a Nevada elementary school teacher and mother of three who ran for Congress after telling her students that “any American can run for political office” – and they challenged her to prove it! Her inspiring story is the subject of her new book “Ms. Cahill for Congress” and the upcoming film, “Class Act,” starring Halle Berry. In order to inspire her students, she dedicated herself to running for a Congressional seat. Although she ultimately lost the election, she garnered more than one-third of the votes and succeeded in teaching her students the value of civic duty.
- **Oliver “Ollie” Davidson**, senior disaster response advisor to the Humane Society of the United States and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center. One of the nation's foremost experts on public-private partnerships, as well as mitigation and recovery planning, he advises on disaster planning and response practices for both domestic and international events. Davidson has held senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, FEMA, the American Red Cross and other vital disaster organizations.
- **Robin Read**, president and CEO of the National Foundation for Women Legislators – the largest and oldest organization for elected women at all levels of governance from all 50 states and territories. During her tenure, she has brought the National Foundation for Women Legislators from a group with few members and no national office to an organization of 2,000 elected women and 1,000 corporations, associations and individual sponsors. Read served previously at the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

“We are truly delighted to honor these three outstanding leaders,” notes Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. “Tierney Cahill, Ollie Davidson and Robin Read have been an inspiration to countless individuals in a remarkable variety of ways. We congratulate them on their achievements and are pleased to be able to acknowledge them in this way.”

Tierney Cahill also was the keynote speaker during the Tropical Holiday Celebration, which took place at the Boca Raton Resort and Club’s Mizner Center. More than 250 people attended the event, which also featured a reception and silent auction, followed by dinner, a live auction and musical entertainment by acclaimed jazz pianist Copeland Davis.

Corporate sponsors of the event included Ernst & Young, Balfour Beatty, the Boca Raton Resort and Club, Boca By Design, JKG Group, *USA Today* Education, Proskauer Rose LLP, RLC Architects and FranklinCovey.

The Tropical Holiday Celebration took place in conjunction with the Office Depot Foundation’s second annual Weekend in Boca Leadership Symposium, a three-day retreat focused on the challenges and opportunities facing the civil society sector. Presented in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Business Civic Leadership Center, the gathering attracted approximately 90 local, state and national leaders from business, government and non-profit organizations.

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#### **About the Office Depot Foundation**

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation (tax exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)) that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. 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 civil society (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, visit [www.officedepotfoundation.org](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).