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**BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS CONVENE
FOR OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION'S SECOND ANNUAL
'WEEKEND IN BOCA' LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

*National Forum Presented in Collaboration with U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Business Civic Leadership Center*

Boca Raton, Fla., December 19, 2008 – For the second consecutive year, the [Office Depot Foundation™](#) has partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) to present a leadership symposium focused on the challenges and opportunities facing the civil society sector. Dubbed "Weekend in Boca II," the gathering attracted approximately 90 local, state and national leaders from business, government and non-profit organizations to Boca Raton earlier this month.

The three-day symposium incorporated presentations and conversations around the theme "Community Development, Private Sector Partnerships and Non-profit Capacity Building in a Challenging Economy." The Office Depot Foundation, which serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot (NYSE: ODP), hosted the session in support of one of the key components of its "5 X 5 Program™" of strategic priorities: "Helping non-profit (civil society) organizations become more professional and productive."

"While the number of non-profit organizations in the United States has doubled in the last 25 years, it is becoming more challenging for them to meet their most basic needs of viability and sustainability," notes Stephen Jordan, senior vice president and executive director of the Washington-based BCLC. "In uncertain times, the civil society/non-profit sector is even more indispensable. We appreciate the Office Depot Foundation's leadership in convening key leaders to assess what can be done to strengthen the non-profit sector's capacity to take care of the people it serves."

Jordan facilitated the symposium along with Jay Hein, president and CEO of the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research in Indianapolis and former director of the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, and Mary Wong, president of the Office Depot Foundation. The event included a tour of community development initiatives in Boca Raton and Delray Beach – guided by Boca Raton Mayor Susan Whelchel and Delray Beach Deputy Mayor Gary Eliopoulos. Presentations also were made by Mark Dobosz, vice president of development for SCORE and executive director of the SCORE Foundation, and Barry Anderson, interim president and CEO of Gifts In Kind International.

The inaugural “Weekend in Boca” in December 2007 resulted in the publication of a white paper, “Preparing Civil Society Organizations for Leadership.” The paper can be viewed and downloaded at www.officedepotfoundation.org. A similar paper will be produced following Weekend in Boca II.

“We were proud to convene our second leadership symposium and delighted by the caliber of the attendees,” Wong says. “This represents another important step in our efforts to help non-profit organizations not only to build capacity, but also to enhance their ability to achieve sustainability and pursue innovation.”

In conjunction with Weekend in Boca, the Office Depot Foundation presented its annual “Listen Learn Care Awards” to three individuals to recognize their exceptional creativity and innovation in professional and community service. Listen Learn Care™ is the Foundation’s mission statement. The honorees were:

- **Tierney Cahill**, a Nevada elementary school teacher who ran for Congress in response to a challenge from her students. Her inspiring story is the subject of the upcoming film, “Class Act,” starring Halle Berry.
- **Oliver “Ollie” Davidson**, senior disaster response advisor to the Humane Society of the United States and the Business Civic Leadership Center, and one of the nation's foremost experts on public-private partnerships, as well as mitigation and recovery planning.
- **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.

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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.