

## **Florida DECA Chooses Their Fall Collection Drive Charity**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2014

Altamonte Springs, FL—Florida DECA announces their fall collection drive charity as part of their semiannual community service program called Helping Hands. This year the focus for the fall collection will benefit **The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.**

The mission of The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc., as shared from their website (thespring.org), is to **prevent** domestic violence, **protect** victims and **promote change** in lives, families and communities. The Spring has provided sanctuary and services to more than 60,000 abused adults and their children. The Spring's programs and services help victims of domestic violence rebuild their lives and raise awareness to prevent domestic violence from occurring. The Spring services are free of charge and include: 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, kid programming, outreach services, transitional housing, and educational and awareness programming. They have a "Wish List" of items needed to service the over 2400 women, children, and men in Hillsborough County.

The student officers of the Florida Association of DECA are asking all members to donate items for this cause. The items include: non-perishable food items of **rice and/or pasta**, educational supplies of **crayons and markers**, unused personal care items of **toothbrushes and toothpaste**, and "survivor needs" (comfort needs) consisting of **children's books, stuffed animals, and new socks** for adults and/or children. Chapters of Florida DECA are asked to collect items during the month of October and forward items to their annual Florida DECA Emerging Summit (ELS) on October 31, 2014 at the Hilton Clearwater Beach. Chapters not attending the FL DECA ELS are asked to send their collections with a local chapter that is attending the conference.

The Florida DECA officers "Team 55" chose this charity to bring attention to the growing issue of domestic violence and to give back to the community where their annual fall leadership conference will be held. The Executive President of DECA, Inc. Zack Schaja, has asked chartered associations of DECA to implement his goal of "giving back to the host city" of annual conferences. The Helping Hands semiannual community service project is an opportunity for chapters and members to give back to a community on a grand scale. The Helping Hands initiative was established by Team 52 President Daniela Rey. Florida DECA has collected over 57,000 items for charity.

All participating chapters will be recognized at the annual Florida DECA Career Development Conference held in Orlando March 5-8, 2015. The top three chapters donating the most items will be awarded a traveling plaque. A point system will be established to equalize the items collected.

Florida DECA is a high school co-curricular education program with 100 chapters and 9000 members across the state of Florida for the past 57 years. Florida DECA is a chartered association of DECA, Inc. The mission of DECA is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

For more information please contact the FL DECA Officer Co-Coordinator, Robert Hosier at [hosier@fldeca.org](mailto:hosier@fldeca.org), chapters officers and members should contact the FL DECA President, Tamir Rabinovich at [tamir@fldeca.org](mailto:tamir@fldeca.org).

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