

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **THE GOOD NEWS FOUNDATION & OFFICEMAX® DEDICATE COMPUTER CENTER TO HELP HOMELESS KIDS ON LA'S SKID ROW**

~Women of Los Angeles Television News & OfficeMax Partner with School on Wheels~

**Los Angeles, CA – February 2008** – The Good News Foundation, is proud to have partnered with OfficeMax® to help School on Wheels, a hard working, non-profit charity dedicated to helping homeless children, by providing a state-of-the-art computer learning center in their skid row location. **The Good News OfficeMax Computer Learning Center** will be dedicated on **Tuesday, February 12th** and will bring together the community volunteers, the corporate contributor, and the city's leading journalists—who have all joined forces to help educate homeless children who are living on the streets and in the shelters of Los Angeles.

The mission of School on Wheels is simple: to enhance the educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The driving force behind the non-profit charity is Agnes Stevens, a retired school teacher and a former nun. Her work first began in Santa Monica and Venice nearly 20 years ago. Agnes would head to public parks where she would find children and encourage them to stay in school. In 2000, Agnes opened her School on Wheels store-front office center on Skid Row. With the help of more than 335 volunteers, it's estimated this organization offers 70,000 hours of tutoring time to more than 3,000 children. Many of the volunteers are college students. Agnes says they are the heart of her organization, often driving to abandon buildings, parking lots and anywhere children are living, (thus, the name, School on Wheels).

Agnes' efforts were recently recognized by The Good News Foundation who awarded her with their inaugural Good News Grant Award. Inspired by her commitment and impressed at the dedicated difference School on Wheels is making in a corner of our community which is so greatly underserved, The Good News Foundation wanted to do more to help. 'Good' fortune led the leaders of The Good News Foundation to the community minded office super-store, OfficeMax. After hearing about Agnes and the School on Wheels program, OfficeMax generously agreed to donate an assortment of supplies including computers, printers, a projector and screen—a donation totaling to more than \$20,000.

William Bonner, senior director, external relations for OfficeMax, says "OfficeMax is an advocate for teachers and for all they do to give kids the best opportunity to learn. Together with The Good News Foundation, we are very proud to bring useful support to School on Wheels."

Wendy Burch, the founder and chairperson of The Good News Foundation says, "Partnering with OfficeMax took us in a direction we never dreamed possible for School on Wheels. We called the company in hopes they could give the kids a few backpacks... they decided to donate a truckload of school supplies instead!" Burch went onto explain that the donation of the computers and software completely overwhelmed the women of The Good News Foundation. "They left us speechless! Quite an accomplishment when you consider television reporters, are seldom—if ever—at a loss for words."

In addition, the efforts of Agnes Stevens and her School on Wheels has recently been recognized internationally. Agnes has just been selected to receive the Worlds Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child. This prestigious honor is often referred to the 'Nobel Prize' of child advocacy. The award is the world's largest educational initiative for democracy and children's rights, with 16 million students at 35,000 schools in 87 countries participating in the global vote. Her Majesty Queen Silvia will present the prize to Agnes in Sweden in April. ([www.childrensworld.org](http://www.childrensworld.org)).

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The Good News OfficeMax Computer Learning Center  
News Release

The Dedication of The Good News OfficeMax Computer Center will take place

Tuesday, February 12th 2008  
1:30pm-2:00pm

WHERE

School on Wheels Skid Row Learning Center  
506 South San Pedro  
Los Angeles, California  
(across from the Union Rescue Mission)

SUGGESTED PARKING:

410 Boyd Street, Los Angeles  
(Located a block and a half from the learning center between 3rd & 4th)  
\$5.00 parking fee  
(limited metered spaces available on Boyd Street)

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Homeless children who participate in the School on Wheels Program will be working on the new computers. Volunteers and representatives from this non-profit will be on hand to answer questions
- Board Members from The Good News Foundation available for interviews including:  
Pat Harvey, Christine Devine, Ana Garcia, Dorothy Lucey & Wendy Burch
- Representatives from OfficeMax will be available for interviews regarding their generous donation

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School on Wheels is a 501(c)3 charity with a mission to the enhance educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Their goal is to shrink the gaps in their education and provide them with the highest education possible.  
[www.SchoolOnWheels.org](http://www.SchoolOnWheels.org)

The Good News Foundation is a 501(c)3 charity founded by the Women of Los Angeles Television News and is dedicated to making a positive difference in the communities we cover on a daily news basis.  
[www.TheGoodNewsFoundation.org](http://www.TheGoodNewsFoundation.org)

OfficeMax Incorporated is a leader in both business-to-business and retail office products distribution.

The OfficeMax mission is simple: to help our customers do their best work.

The company provides office supplies, print and document services through OfficeMax Impress™, technology products and solutions, and furniture to large, medium and small businesses and consumers. OfficeMax customers are served by approximately 35,000 associates through direct sales, catalogs, e-commerce and more than 900 stores.

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