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SPCA WILDLIFE CARE CENTER WRAPS UP “BE A WILDLIFE HERO”
*2,500 Elementary School Students “Graduate” In-School Program To Give Hope
to the Future of Florida’s Wildlife*

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL—The SPCA Wildlife Care Center (WCC) recently hosted Wildlife Hero Release Day to wrap up its in-school program, “Be A Wildlife Hero” at the War Memorial Auditorium. “Be A Wildlife Hero” program is aligned to the Sunshine State Standards and FCAT benchmarks for grades 3, 4 and 5 in Title I school in Broward County. The “graduation” ceremony sent the 2,500 students back into their respective communities as animal ambassadors.

The WCC’s program covers geography, social studies, science, language arts, the arts, and is interactive with visually charged assembly presentation using creative costumes. Students learn about Florida’s native wildlife, habitat destruction and its impact, what to do if injured wildlife is found, humane treatment of animals and ways to conserve and protect our natural environment.

The students were entertained by an energizing performance of artist and songwriter, Lanny Smith, who is better known as Earthman to millions of children and adults throughout the nation. Earthman uses the power of music, the arts and technology to inspire people to protect the Earth’s environment. Smith is also intimately involved in music education, as he has hosted the Grammy Concerts for Children, sponsored by The Recording Academy, and the Palm Beach Pops Concerts for Children series. Earthman was named the 2006 Environmental Educator of the Year for North America.

“The SPCA Wildlife Care Center aims to inspire empathy toward all animals, increase environmental awareness and encourage civic responsibility among our South Florida students. By aligning our program to the Sunshine State Standards curriculum and FCAT benchmarks we assist Florida’s education system, and at the same time take great strides in continuing our imperative mission,” said Kyla Makela, Director of Education & Outreach of the WCC.

The WCC plans to expand its program to the public schools of Palm Beach County and to more schools in Broward County. The Community Foundation of Palm Beach County provides funding for “Be A Wildlife Hero.”

For more information or to support program content, contact Kyla Makela at 954-524-4302 x18, or email education@WildlifeCareCenter.org.

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About the SPCA Wildlife Care Center:

Serving the South Florida Tri-County Region, the mission of the SPCA Wildlife Care Center (WCC) is to rescue, rehabilitate and release native wildlife that has

been harmed or displaced; to treat and place certain domestic, exotic and farm animals; and to educate the public toward co-existence with all animals. With 4.5 acres of property, three full-time ambulances, 70 employees and 600 volunteers, the WCC is home to up to 900 injured, harmed or orphaned wildlife at any given time. Last year alone nearly 14,000 sick, injured and orphaned animals were admitted to the SPCA Wildlife Care Center.

Over the past 38 39 years, the SPCA Wildlife Care Center has grown to be the largest facility of its kind in the nation. Located at 3200 SW 4th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, the WCC recently announced its first multi-million dollar capital campaign to fund a new, state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center to serve South Florida. For more information, please visit www.WildlifeCareCenter.org.

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