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November 4, 2009

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**Jeb Bush Jr., Volunteer USA and Concorde Career Institute
Present Tampa Mother and Child College Scholarship**

~Partners Reward State's Most Deserving Family Literacy Students~

Palm Beach – Marfie Diaz, a mother of two, is on the way to achieving her college dreams and ultimately her chosen career. In addition, one of Diaz's children will receive a two-year Florida Prepaid college scholarship. The awards are the result of Volunteer USA's unique Family Literacy Initiative scholarship program, in partnership with the **Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC)**, the **Florida Prepaid College Foundation** and corporate sponsor, **Dollar General**. The award was presented by Jeb Bush, Jr., an advocate of family literacy, to celebrate the achievement of a select group of students during an annual luncheon celebrating the accomplishments of parents involved in family literacy programs throughout Florida.

The unique, family-friendly scholarship program was created to benefit both parents and children enrolled at Family Literacy Academies in Florida. The awards are presented each year to celebrate the achievement of a select group of parents who are selected based on their academic gains, attendance, GED exam status, a personal essay and reference letters.



Diaz has enrolled in the **Concorde Career Institute in Tampa**, where she is studying the field of medical assisting. Concorde, a member of FAPSC, generously provided the scholarship, which covers full tuition and fees.

Established in Tampa in 1978, Concorde Career Institute prepares committed students for successful employment in a rewarding health care profession and has served the educational needs of thousands of graduates.

“The school awards scholarships to students who show promise and who have set very immediate goals for starting careers in the allied health profession,” said campus president Donna Hallam. “We believe this scholarship is our way of giving back to the community and thanking them for allowing us to educate so many allied health employees in the greater Tampa area for so many years. Concorde Career Institute hopes that Ms. Diaz will gain successful employment in this rewarding health care profession. Perhaps someday she can pass on the favor of education to another deserving student.”

Diaz was previously a student at the Presbyterian Learning Center Family Literacy Academy in Tampa, where she excelled in her academic and parenting classes, paving the way to earn her G.E.D. certificate earlier this year and finally entrance into college.

“I have a new opportunity to improve my education and give a better life to my family. I am now planning on going into the medical field to improve my education and to help others who have medical needs,” said Diaz.

“I congratulate our scholarship winners who have worked so hard to reach this educational achievement. It is an enormous task to juggle their classes and jobs while raising young children,” said Liza McFadden, president of Volunteer USA. “These dedicated parents recognize, education is the key to a better life for their families and that’s why we created these family-friendly scholarships – as a way to help struggling parents break the cycle of illiteracy and become stronger role models to their children.”

In total, Volunteer USA and FAPSC member schools this month have awarded eight scholarships. In total, the awards are valued at \$175-thousand. The scholarships are being recognized this September as Florida celebrates Literacy Month.

Background:

The **Florida Family Literacy Initiative** is administered by the Volunteer USA Foundation, which provides funding, training and technical assistance for literacy providers. The Foundation assists Family Literacy Academy sites in Florida. If you are interested in funding a scholarship for a child or an adult, see www.volunteerusafoundation.org for more information or email liza.mcfadden@volunteerusafund.org.

The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) provides leadership, support and advocacy for quality career education. FAPSC represents the interests of over 800 licensed, private career colleges and schools that annually prepare more than 265,000 students in 200 occupations. www.FAPSC.org

Dollar General is a leading discount retailer with more than 8,300 neighborhood stores. The company has a longstanding tradition of supporting literacy and education. Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$24.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 1-million individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma or English proficiency. To learn more about Dollar General, visit www.dollargeneral.com.

The **Florida Prepaid College Foundation**, the non-profit direct support organization of the Florida Prepaid College Board, has awarded more than 27,100 scholarships to children throughout Florida since 1990. www.floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com

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