

For Immediate Release February 11, 2008 For Additional Information Contact: Cristina Virsida, Media Coordinator 954-806-3013

The Kids Ecology Corps take an unused lot and turn it into an outdoor science center for a Fort Lauderdale pre-school and temple

Volunteers, parents and pre-schoolers planted their first wildlife habitat on the grounds of Temple Bat Yam in East Fort Lauderdale's Coral Ridge Isles.

Oakland Park, FL (February 11, 2008) – Recently, dozens of pre-school students from Kids Learning Academy in Fort Lauderdale joined the The Kids Ecology Corps in the groundbreaking of their first wildlife habitat and butterfly garden set within the grounds of Temple Bat Yam. The young students, their parents and KEC staff began the planting and installation of the pre-school's outdoor science center and butterfly garden, which had been months in the making.

A main focus for the pre-school was to create a place where young students can come to learn and care for their local wildlife. Keila Reyes, Director of Kids Learning Academy, called upon The Kids Ecology Corps, a local non-profit environmental education organization, and their staff to aid in the project. "We were very excited when The Kids Ecology Corps agreed to help us create this garden for our students," said Reyes, "They loved putting on their little gloves and helping plant. We cannot wait to see the looks on their faces when those first butterflies arrive."

Toby Lopez, Volunteer and Community Coordinator for The Kids Ecology Corps, expressed her excitement on working with the young volunteers. "It is still an amazing experience to behold a garden from a child's-eye view. Somehow, it re-awakens our awareness of the beauty of nature ... and of what is possible when people come together for a cause." said Lopez.

Kids Learning Academy is located at 5151 NE 14th Terrace, Oakland Park. Visit them online at <u>www.kids-dc.com</u> or call 954-351-5544 for information on their programs.

The Kids Ecology Corps is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them. KEC has reached over 58,000 young people from pre-k through high school, offering unique hands-on presentations and eco-action programs that educate children and youth about: keeping our oceans clean; the importance of trees; the role re-planting our coastal wetlands play in beach conservation; water conservation; pollution prevention; global climate change and energy conservation; and, protecting local natural habitats for native wildlife. Visit them at www.kidsecologycorps.org or via phone at 954-524-0366.