



For Immediate Release

Contact: Mercedes New ♦ 904.623.8023 ♦ mercede@caregivegrow.org

The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Partners with Take Stock in Children to Create An Innovative Tutoring Program

May 24, 2012 – Jacksonville, FL – The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation has collaborated with Take Stock in Children to create a new online peer-to-peer tutoring program connecting middle and high school students in Jacksonville. The program is named IMPACT, and stands for *Innovative Mentoring Program Aimed at Connecting Teens*. It encourages high school students to volunteer and to be a positive role model to middle school students.

IMPACT originated with The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation's belief that through volunteering and community involvement, teenagers can recognize their full potential. High school students volunteer to be tutors in the place of adults, as they can relate to their peers and are more familiar with homework. A partnership with Take Stock in Children was a natural fit because of their mission to utilize mentors to provide enriching opportunities to middle school students.

IMPACT is innovative not only because tutoring is done by students, rather than adults, but also because tutoring is done online. "We were looking for ways to engage teens, and the internet is where they feel comfortable. Its second nature to them," says Leah Lynch, program director of Take Stock in Children, Duval County. Through a webcam students can talk one-on-one about homework, FCAT testing and other topics. This also alleviates the issue of teenagers having to find transportation to a tutoring location. Every Wednesday after-school, volunteer tutors from Bolles High School use their computer lab to connect with students from Fletcher Middle

School, who utilize the computer lab at McKenzie's Academic Resource Center. McKenzie's Academic Resource Center is a community center that provides academic programs to students in their neighborhood. Each middle school student enrolled in IMPACT also has an opportunity to receive a full college scholarship from Take Stock in Children if they continue to receive tutoring from an upperclassman and mentoring from an adult, through high school. For more information about IMPACT go to www.caregivegrow.org/teenmentors

About The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation

The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in memory of McKenzie Wilson who passed away in 2010. The Foundation is dedicated to helping young people find their purpose in an increasingly complex and challenging world. The Foundation's mission is to help young people recognize their full potential by providing programs that encourage caring for others, giving to those-in-need, and growing in their own spirituality. For more information about the Foundation or to see how you can help, visit www.caregivegrow.org.

About Take Stock in Children

Take Stock in Children was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization in Florida that provides a unique opportunity for low-income and at-risk students, many from minority families, to escape the cycle of poverty through education. We offer our students college scholarships, caring volunteer mentors and hope for a better life. Our comprehensive services start in middle school, continue through high school and include their transition into college. For more information, visit www.takestockduval.org