

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****
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FAU Harbor Branch Partners with Harvest Outreach for Children's Educational Programming

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (July 10, 2015) – Local children of families in need will learn about ocean science this summer, thanks to a partnership between FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) and the Harvest Food & Outreach Center in Fort Pierce.

The event will take place on Monday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Harvest Food & Outreach Center, 2520 Orange Ave., in Fort Pierce. Field trips for the children to the HBOI Ocean Discovery Center, 5600 U.S. 1 North in Fort Pierce, will take place on Fridays, July 17 and July 24.

The program at the Harvest Food & Outreach Center includes a public open house featuring members of the HBOI Marine Mammal Team who will give public tours of the HBOI Marine Mammal Ambulance, provide interactive experiences for families and share information about the marine mammals in the Indian River Lagoon and beyond.

"We are always excited when we can introduce ocean education and our work at Harbor Branch to a new audience," said Jim Masterson, Ph.D., program director. "We are grateful to Norm and Sandy Stevenson, whose generosity is allowing us to build a new, long-term relationship with the children and families served by the Harvest Food & Outreach Center."

The collaboration is designed to support the educational programming for the children of Harvest Food & Outreach Center clients, and is being facilitated by Harvest Food board member Norm Stevenson, and his wife, Sandy.

"All children should have the opportunity to discover the wonders and possibilities of the world they live in," said Stevenson. "We are proud of the work of both organizations, and are pleased to play a part in making it possible for the children of Harvest clients to learn about our oceans and estuaries firsthand with HBOI."

For more information, contact Carin Smith at 772-242-2230 or carinsmith@fau.edu.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.hboi.fau.edu.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

About Harvest Food & Outreach Center:

Harvest Food & Outreach Center, founded in 2003 by Austin and Ginny Hunt in Indian River County, provides a holistic, multi-component approach that provides a hand up to those living at or under the 200% federal poverty level. Harvest's unique model offers a comprehensive three-tiered approach to lifting people out of poverty through: 1) a Hunger Relief Program that includes an Emergency Food Box and Cost Share Grocery Program, 2) a Crisis Center that stabilizes people in crisis through counseling and active referrals to services, and 3) Education and Employment Opportunity Programs that address the source of the problem and provides long term solutions for those in need toward self sufficiency. For more information about programs, donations, and volunteer opportunities, call 772-778-3977 or visit www.harvestfoodoutreach.org.