

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McInnis KidsZone Students had a night out on the town in Downtown Deland!

~ Students experience the theater for the first time ~

DELEON SPRINGS – Friday, January 27th - The McInnis KidsZone (KZ) students had a night out on the town in Downtown Deland! The students and chaperones enjoyed an authentic Mexican meal at De La Vega Restaurant before going to see *James and the Giant Peach* at the Athens Theater on Friday, January 27th.

Students had been reading the book authored by Roald Dahl during their weekly meetings before attending the musical performance. Food Brings Hope funded the purchase of these books so that the students would have a more meaningful experience while viewing the performance.

McInnis is just one of ten elementary schools in the Food Brings Hope KidsZone program. FBH aspires to increase academic and personal enrichment opportunities for high-achieving students from low socioeconomic or homeless families. Currently, 38 students are enrolled in the KZ program at McInnis, meeting twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7pm, during these meetings students are tutored in all area of studies.

The KZ sponsors at McInnis choose enrichment activities that introduce their students to experiences they would not normally have the opportunity. *James and the Giant Peach* musical has all the requisites of a great children's tale: a resourceful orphan's escape from cruelty with the help (and sometimes opposition) of true friends through a perilous voyage to a promised home and refuge.

McInnis FBH sponsor, Ms. Sonia Larrabee, noted "We want the student to connect what they are learning to their interest and know their futures and career choices are not limited. We want our students to know that they can face any challenge with education. One person's imagination became a celebrated book and then performance arts, a dream now available for generations to enjoy." She added, "An evening at the theatre is just one of many cultural learning experiences organized by Food Brings Hope. The whole evening was filled with 'firsts' for our students. Thank you FBH!"

About Food Brings Hope

Food Brings Hope (FBH), a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, provides collaborative solutions for families with children who experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources. FBH's mission is to nurture the mind, body and spirit of underprivileged children in our community. Among other services, **FBH** offers school based programs (termed **KidsZone** in elementary schools and **TeenZone** in the upper grades) that provide meals, tutoring and activities for at-risk students. FBH also facilitates enrichment activities such as Nutrition Days and Hands On Banking Programs along with field trips to local educational destinations and events. At FBH, 100% of all donations go directly to the programs that support students in need.

For more information about Food Brings Hope, please visit www.FoodBringsHope.org or contact Shelley Brathwaite, Program Coordinator, at (386) 843-1161 or Shelley@FoodBringsHope.org.