

## Retiring Old Glory



Boy Scouts look to Wheelabrator for proper American flag disposal

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In a boiler room swelling with emotion and pride, Wheelabrator North Broward employees advanced a tattered flag down the line of honor guard members before placing it atop the hundreds of other flags set to be retired.

The ceremony was held on June 13, the day before Flag Day, to properly retire and destroy American flags too worn and faded to display. The flags were collected by Boy

“I wanted to make sure that when we disposed of the flags, we would do so in the right manner.”  
**Jim Nez**

Scout Commissioner Andy Buglione and his troops in Pompano.

Wheelabrator mechanics Jim Nez and Kevin Travis were instrumental in planning the flag retirement ceremony. A retired master sergeant in the Army Reserves, Travis was activated to serve in the Middle East,

Haiti and Georgia during his employment at Wheelabrator. Nez, a retired first-class aviation structural

See FLAG DISPOSAL Page 6



Wheelabrator employees, from left, Oscar Marenco, Hanif Comarcho, Caple Malcolm, Roberto Pedrosa, Marcos Furment, Carlos Velazquez salute during the flag-disposal ceremony.

WHEELABRATOR SYMPOSIUM

## Having a ball



Sawgrass Springs Middle School students were all smiles outside Land Shark Stadium during a field trip to a Florida Marlins game as part of Wheelabrator's 15th Annual Symposium for Environment and Education. Pages 4-5.

## Recycling made easier

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Recycling in Broward County has been made easier, thanks to the adoption of single-stream recycling in most communities as of Oct. 1, 2009.

Under single-stream recycling – also known as all-in-one or fully commingled – recyclable items no longer have to be sorted. It is a system in which all paper fibers and containers are mixed together in a collection truck, instead of being sorted into separate commodities (newspaper,



cardboard, plastic, glass, etc.) by residents and handled separately throughout the collection process. In single stream, both the collection and processing systems must be designed to handle this fully commingled mixture of recyclables.

The switch to single-stream recycling in Broward County was made possible by Waste Management's upgrading its facility in Pembroke Pines last year. "It's a state-of-the-art facility that is designed to handle single-stream recycling,"

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**Scott McIlvaine**

# Our employees go above and beyond

As we approach nearly two decades of providing energy to Broward County, I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize the employees and community who energize this facility on a daily basis.

It's the dedication of employees such as Jim Nez, whom you will read about in this edition that defines Wheelabrator North Broward. Because of Jim, we were able to hold a heartfelt ceremony to retire hundreds of U.S. flags the Boy Scouts collected. Jim took the time to

research proper retirement methods and gather military veterans at our plant to participate. This is just one example of an employee going above and beyond the call of duty.

I also want to highlight our community. Broward County has shown us tremendous support in providing us a home since this plant's inception. We recognize it is our job to be a responsible corporate neighbor, which is why we are eager to step up and support the efforts of organizations such as

Partners in Education and SOS Children's Villages – Florida.

In this edition, you will also read about the efforts of the middle-school students who participated in the 15th annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education. All four Broward County teams did a tremendous job, and it was a pleasure to attend and watch them shine.

*Scott McIlvaine is plant manager of Wheelabrator North Broward.*



**Jairaj Gosine**

# Our doors are always open

At Wheelabrator South Broward, our doors are always open. I think that philosophy rang true, more than ever, as we welcomed friends and guests to our facility throughout the spring and summer months.

We were delighted to host the Davie-Cooper City Chamber of Commerce for an after-hours networking event in July. It was wonderful to be able to give the community a better understanding of what we do here on a daily basis. Many thanks to Amelio Mendez, profiled in this edition, who did a tremendous job leading tour groups.

We also held a very successful event to show appreciation for the drivers who visit our plant on a daily basis. More than 250 drivers participated here at the South plant. We handed out "Safety – Do It For Life" fliers, and all enjoyed food, beverages and a friendly hello and thanks.

It was an honor to host the budding young environmentalists who participated in this year's Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education. Prior to the Symposium, the team from New River Middle School visited our plant for a tour and lunch. I

was so impressed with these students, not only during their visit, but also at this year's event. All of the teams presented with the poise and know-how of students beyond their years. Congratulations to all who participated.

As we usher in yet another school year, I wish our students the best of luck. I look forward to continuing our school-based partnerships and attending the many exciting events planned for the upcoming months.

*Jairaj Gosine is plant manager of Wheelabrator South Broward.*

# Anderson takes the LEED

## Wheelabrator Director of Engineering earns national recognition

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

When it comes to sustainable design and energy practices, Wheelabrator is taking the LEED.

Roger Anderson, director of engineering for Wheelabrator Technologies, has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council. The accreditation is presented to professionals who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices, and who have passed the national exam. Anderson is one of approximately 75,000 nationwide and the first at Wheelabrator to earn the prestigious credential.

"Today's society is demanding more and more in terms of green-building design and technology that preserve and protect our natural resources," said Anderson. "That's what sustainability is all about. People want to recycle; they want to purchase organic foods; they want to invest in fuel-efficient cars; and they want to be able to purchase green, renewable power."

As a certified LEED professional, Anderson hopes to be able to better meet those demands.

"Wheelabrator needs to position itself to be able to respond," he said. "We need to have green-building design in our arsenal of offerings to the communities we serve."

As an internationally recognized green-building certification system, LEED provides verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving energy savings, water efficiency, emissions reduction,



**Wheelabrator Director of Engineering Roger Anderson earned a national green building certification.**

improved indoor air quality and stewardship of resources.

Anderson, who grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, has more than 30 years' experience in engineering, project management, field construction, permitting and contract administration. He earned his degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and began his career as a structural design engineer with UOP, Inc. in Des Plaines, Ill. He then progressed to project engineer, field engineer and home office construction coordinator, working on various petrochemical,

refinery, pharmaceutical plants, trash-to-energy facilities and air pollution control projects.

Before joining Wheelabrator, he also spent time in the oil industry in Saudi Arabia, and as a construction monitor at an ethanol plant in Tennessee. There, he reported to the World Bank and the U.S. Dept. of Energy, which provided loan guarantees on this experimental, yet successful, technology.

Anderson was hired by Wheelabrator in 1985, serving as project engineer on the original development and construction of the Claremont, N.H., Bridgeport, Conn., Lisbon, Conn., and Falls Township, Penn., facilities.

As project manager of Wheelabrator's ash management research and development program, Anderson managed various research projects. In 1995, he was appointed general manager of Wheelabrator's IPS division, a biosolids management company. Subsequently, he was appointed director of engineering of Wheelabrator's former BioGro division in Annapolis, Md., and then project manager on the initial phase of Wheelabrator's Putnam, Conn., ash landfill project.

Appointed manager of projects in 1998 and director of engineering in 2009, Anderson had managed the design and construction of the air-pollution-control retrofit projects, including some major plant rebuilds, that Wheelabrator conducted pursuant to the revisions in the Clean Air Act. Since 2005, he has witnessed a resurgence of interest in the waste-to-energy industry and has dedicated much of his time to those pursuits.

## Open-door policy

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it is collected from the curb?

We invite you to tour one of our Broward County plants and witness firsthand the journey waste takes as it is converted into electricity.

*To set up a tour, please contact:*

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# Firmly planted

## Nez feels great loyalty to Wheelabrator North Broward

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Jim Nez knows loyalty.

A retired Navy aviation structural mechanic, Nez was trained under the motto, “not self, but country.” Today, he recognizes that same sense of allegiance among his fellow employees at Wheelabrator North Broward.

“There’s a strong sense of loyalty – loyalty to each other and to the company,” he said.

Nez, a maintenance mechanic at the North Broward plant, was hired as a laborer in February of 2000 for the start-up of the Wheelabrator Falls plant in Falls Township, Penn.

“I was working in the area and a few people started talking about the new plant starting up,” said Nez. “I looked into it, and the idea of taking household trash and turning it into electricity sounded interesting. Plus, it sounded like a good thing for the environment.”

Within a month, Nez had advanced from the position of laborer to mechanic. In March of 2004, he transferred from Wheelabrator Falls to the North Broward plant. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Nez quickly adapted to the warmer climate following his relocation. He and his wife have made their home in

Margate, Fla. Nez is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion post in Margate. He serves in the honor guards of both organizations.

As a mechanic, Nez is responsible for routine maintenance to keep the North Broward plant running.

“The goal is to keep productivity at its highest and downtime to a minimum,” he said.

Nez was also recently named head of the plant’s Safety Committee, along with Environmental Health and Safety Manager Neil Swanson.

“Safety is our highest priority,” said Nez. “I think it’s more focused now than ever.”

He credits the company-wide initiative, Safety on Purpose, through which every employee is responsible for reporting something positive or negative on a daily basis, ranging from exemplary behavior to potential hazards in the workplace. The goals of the program are to encourage employees to think about the positive aspect of safety; to engage and empower employees to work safely; to have supervisors provide feedback and suggestions on a continuous basis; and to reward and recognize positive safety performance.



Jim Nez has been working at Wheelabrator since 2000.

## Mendez is an original at Wheelabrator South Broward

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Nearly two decades ago, Amelio Mendez joined the start-up team at Wheelabrator South Broward, unsure of what the future would hold. Today, many would call him the heart, soul and face of the plant.

Mendez was hired in October 1990. Prior to joining Wheelabrator, he had 13 years of power plant maintenance experience. He admits he knew little about the concept of waste-to-energy prior to taking on the position.

“I understood the basic principles of the power-plant industry, (and) just knew the fuel would be different,” he said.

Mendez served as a mechanic until 1995, when he was promoted to maintenance lead. He was then promoted to maintenance planner in 2001. In that role, he is responsible for laying out routine schedules and plant activities for the day and planning for special projects and outages.

“What I enjoy most is the people,” said Mendez. “All you have to do is ask for help and people are willing to step up and share their ideas and communicate with you. That makes my job easy.”

Naturally personable, Mendez also enjoys

giving plant tours on a regular basis.

“The kids are the most fun,” he said. “They’re our future, so teaching them about waste-to-energy and what we do here is rewarding.”

Donning yet another cap, Mendez is also head of the plant’s Safety Committee. In that role, he is in charge of leading safety meetings and eliciting ideas for improvement from his fellow employees.

“I’m a staunch supporter of safety, and I think all of us share a commitment to that,” he said. “This wouldn’t work if it was just management-driven. It has to come from the front-line workers.”

After almost 20 years, Mendez has noticed a shift in the company-wide safety culture – for the better.

“When I first started, Wheelabrator had a very good safety program – better than most power plants,” he said. “But as the years went on, there’s been an even stronger push to make safety the No. 1 priority. Now, the safety culture has made us a better, more productive plant. The amount of work that used to take us 10 days can be done in less.”

A native Texan, Mendez resides in Sunrise with his wife of nearly 40 years, Maurine. They have two children and four grandchildren.



Amelio Mendez has been at Wheelabrator South Broward plant for 19 years.



# Going green

## Broward County hosts Wheelabrator’s 15th annual Symposium for Environment and Education

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Fifteen years ago, Wheelabrator Technologies’ senior management team envisioned a program designed to help foster environmental and social awareness in the youth of its client communities.

Today, the Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education has become the centerpiece of the company’s community relations program and the highlight of many students’ academic years.

“I love it,” said Juliet Belovich, a student at Westglades Middle School in Parkland. “You never know what’s going to happen next with our world, and our biggest challenge is getting people involved and getting them to change their mindsets.”

The Symposium, which kicked off in Concord, N.H., in 1994, is a six-month learning project in which middle-school students identify an environmental challenge in their community and develop a long-term solution. They present their findings to a panel of educators, government officials and local community volunteers at the culmination of the project each May.

“This company started organizing the Symposium long before green was cool, but every year the students have come forward,

passionate and driven to make a difference,” said Wheelabrator Vice President of Operations William Roberts. “You can’t be at this event and not be impressed with the youth of America.”

“We’ve seen a variety of interesting projects, from radon awareness to beekeeping to graffiti removal,” said Wheelabrator Vice President of Public Affairs Frank Ferraro. “They’re not just good students; they’re great students.”

The 15th annual Symposium was held May 4-6 at the Crowne Plaza in Sunrise, uniting students from 13 different schools in one location. Previously, the company organized regional events in New England, the Mid-Atlantic and the South, following the first five years in New Hampshire.

Among the 130 future scientists and environmentalists were Broward County students from McNicol, New River, Sawgrass Springs and Westglades middle schools. For their projects, McNicol students initiated a school-wide recycling program. New River students worked to restore the beach community at John Lloyd State Park, planting

mangrove seedlings, sable palms, sea oats and native plantlife to help prevent further beach erosion and to enhance the park’s tree canopy. The Sawgrass Springs team tackled the issue of wildflower conservation. The Westglades

team worked closely with the City of Parkland to find ways to reduce the use of plastic grocery bags in favor of canvas ones.

The panel of judges included Robin Davidov, executive director of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; Ron

Magill, director of communications at Miami Metro Zoo; Nina Randall, executive director of Partners in Education in Broward County; and Melissa Telford, director of development at Young at Art Children’s Museum in Davie. McNicol students earned the award for Best Ongoing In-House Recycling Project; New River, Best Animal Conservation Project; Sawgrass Springs, Best Water Conservation; and Westglades, Best Community Outreach Project.

In addition to the presentations, the students were treated to an awards ceremony and dinner, as well as an activities day including a visit to the Sawgrass Recreation Park for an

airboat tour of the Everglades, and a Florida Marlins baseball game.

The featured speakers over the course of the three-day program were Kent Wallace, director of the physics laboratories at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., and Disney Imagineer Eric Goodman, who designs and builds attractions at Disney’s theme parks.

“From the public speaking to the introductions they make, every part of this experience makes a big impact on their lives,” said Stella Shelby, a teacher at Westglades Middle School.

Shelby was honored for her 15-year commitment to the program; she was one of the first teachers to come on board.

“The support I’ve gotten from Wheelabrator has been the same throughout the 15 years,” said Shelby. “We can always count on Linda Sapienza (Wheelabrator’s director of community relations) and the plant employees to go through the steps with us and serve as a sounding board for ideas. What a great company.”

Participating schools each received \$500 in startup funds and a \$1,000 donation from Wheelabrator at the conclusion of the event. In addition, students can later qualify to earn a four-year scholarship through Wheelabrator’s partnership with Fisk University.

“

You can’t be at this event and not be impressed with the youth of America.

**William Roberts**  
*Vice President of Operations*



From left, Wheelabrator’s Linda Sapienza, Heidi Choate and Frank Ferraro prepare to present awards.



New River Middle School’s, from left, Breanne Dasent, Thalia Leary, and Blake Donnelly take questions from the judges.



From left, Stella Shelby, Magnet Coordinator; Westglades MS, Joanne Cantlupe, Magnet Coordinator; Sawgrass Springs MS, Sally Alvarez, Plant Administrative Coordinator; Wheelabrator Technologies, Scott McIlvaine, Plant Manager; Wheelabrator Technologies, Christine Flynn, Principal Westglades MS, Adeline Andreano, Principal Sawgrass Springs MS, Kathrine Hinden, Principal New River MS, Luciana Basile, Controller; Wheelabrator Technologies, Yarei Rivera, Plant Administrative Coordinator; Wheelabrator Technologies, Barbara Rapoza, Science Teacher, New River MS, Felix Jackson, Magnet Coordinator; New River MS.

## Wheelabrator recognized by Broward County schools

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Broward County Public Schools’ outstanding business partners were recognized for their efforts at this year’s Community Involvement Awards event, presented by Partners In Education.

Among those honored was Wheelabrator, which has been a long-time partner to Stephen Foster Elementary School. This year, however, the company received an award based on the opportunities it provides to middle school students participating in its annual Symposium for Environment and Education. Students from McNicol, New River, Sawgrass Springs and Westglades middle schools join teams from across the nation, committing to a six-month learning project to identify an environmental challenge in their communities and develop a long-term solution.

Additionally, Wheelabrator’s Broward plants open their doors to students for field trips and tours. In the past, the company has also helped to fund and construct Sawgrass Springs’ Enviro Classroom, which serves as the center of the school’s outdoor complex, as well as a greenhouse and hydroponics lab on school grounds.

“Wheelabrator is one of the most unique community partners our school has ever encountered,” said JoAnn Cantlupe, magnet coordinator at Sawgrass Springs Middle School. “Their employees have actually come to our school, worked with the students and constructed a greenhouse and gopher tortoise reserve, along with other projects.”

“Wheelabrator is a shining star of our business partners,” said Nina Randall, executive director of Partners in Education. “The company works all year round with

these students, investing not only dollars, but employee time. It’s a wonderful example of hands-on learning at its best.”

Partners In Education, which began in 1983, is the district’s premier school-business partnership program. Its main goal is to successfully partner schools with local businesses and organizations to mentor or tutor students, provide real-world projects for students to solve, sponsor field trips, donate equipment and/or provide career shadowing and internship experiences. The organization also funds programs such as Principal for a Day, as well as mini-grants for teachers and conference scholarships.

This year, Partners in Education celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Community Involvement Awards. The awards were presented on April 30 at the Broward Convention Center.



McNicol Middle School team from left, Lucas Ryan, Micah Bennett, Reynold Urena, Alexa Tapia, Andre Ram, teacher Lara Coronel, Fredrica Coleman, Antonella Rocco, Nelly Martinez, Bismark Peralta, Johanna Bravo and teacher Melissa Goulet.



New River Middle School, seated from left, Jade Levy, Lauren Diehl, Breanne Dasent, Linsey Calliste, Blake Donnelly; standing from left, Barbara Rapoza, Heidi Choate, Brittany Fernandez, South Broward Plant Manager Jairaj Gosine, Ian Goyco, Devin Ellis, Carmen Duesler of the JUL State Park, Brooke Wade, James Sanderson, Thalia Leary, and Yarei Rivera.



Westglades Middle School, front row from left, Adam Wyman, Alan Wlodarczyk, Jackie Weissman, Rachel Toalson, Genevie Rosier, and Sarah Cooper; back row, from left, Stella Shelby, Jamie Luft and Ray Haneski.



Sawgrass Springs Middle School, from left, Linda DeCarlo, Shae Montalvo, David Starr, Rachel Secharan, Natalia Ramirez, Gunnar Danielson, Carly Shooster, Sheli Demry, Ashley Wood, Chiara Kruger, Slava Kayushkin, and Joann Cantlupe.

# Supporting the community

## Wheelabrator actively involved

Wheelabrator is in the business of converting waste into energy. But the company also recognizes its job is to be a responsible corporate neighbor - which is why its plants support numerous organizations throughout Broward County.

In April, Wheelabrator sponsored the 14th annual Clueless on Las Olas fundraiser, benefiting Partners In Education, Broward County's premier school-business partnership program. The unique murder mystery event attracted a record-breaking crowd with nearly 500 participants and raised approximately \$22,000. The 2010 ClueLess on Las Olas fundraiser is scheduled for April 15.

This past May, Wheelabrator was a grand sponsor of "Masquerade, an Evening in Venice" — a dinner, dance and auction to benefit SOS Children's Villages-Florida. SOS is a foster care community in Coconut Creek allowing siblings, who are typically separated while in foster care, to reunite and maintain their family connection. This year's fundraiser brought in more than \$325,000 to support the programs and services the organization provides to the foster children.

"We appreciate Wheelabrator's generous support of the 75 children who call SOS Children's Villages-Florida home," said Debbie Levine, the organization's chief development officer. "It's because of them our kids can enjoy the simple things in life, like summer camp and family cookouts."

On Oct. 1, Wheelabrator sponsored a luncheon to



Front from left, Heidi Choate, Susan Martel and Sally Alvarez of Wheelabrator and Linda Brown of Events, Etc.; back row, Meredith Lasher of Six Star Entertainment, Nina Randall of Partners In Education, Mark Whitney of Mangos Restaurant, emcee Ric Green of Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce, Tim Curtin of Memorial Regional Healthcare and Laura Mogilewski of the Las Olas Association.

benefit the Davie Emergency Assistance Service Effort (E.A.S.E.) Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit established by the business community and residents of Davie and is run in conjunction with other human-service agencies throughout Broward County. The foundation presented the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the luncheon.

On Nov. 13, recyclables will be transformed into couture at the annual Recycling Fashion Show, presented by the Young At Art Children's Museum. Wheelabrator is a major sponsor of the event. Teen volunteers from

will present their creations, made out of candy wrappers, recycled plastic bottles and other materials. Young At Art Children's Museum is a non-profit dedicated to providing hands-on cultural, educational and arts experiences for Broward County youth.

This event will serve as a fundraiser to support Young At Art's environmental programs. Outfits created for the event will also be included in the Recycled Art Wear Exhibit, which will travel to a variety of locations throughout Broward County, providing the opportunity to reach an extended audience.

## Recycling made easier in Broward County

### RECYCLING: from Page 1

said Odette Reza-Brown, public education manager for Broward County Waste and Recycling Services.

*Instead of placing items into separate containers, the following recyclable items can all be placed in the same container (recycling bin or cart):*

- Newspapers, inserts, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, office paper, soft-covered books, file folders, soda cartons and crushed boxes from items such as cereal, tissues, rice and pasta;
- Plastic containers (narrow necks only) such as bottles (without caps or lids) and milk, water, detergent and shampoo containers (without caps or lids);
- Glass food and beverage containers, milk/juice cartons and drink boxes;
- Aluminum and steel food and beverage containers; and
- Cardboard from non-food items such as shipping boxes.

*The following items may not be recycled:*

- Rechargeable batteries;
- Plastic bags;
- Certain glass products including window or auto glass, light bulbs, mirrors, glass cookware or bake ware, and ceramics;
- Paint and pesticides;
- Electronic waste and accessories; medical waste and pharmaceuticals;
- Household garbage and other waste such as garden hoses, car parts, furniture, building debris, flammables and small appliances;
- Pizza boxes; and
- Miscellaneous plastics such as toys and cups.

Reza-Brown said the idea is to make it as easy as possible for county resident to recycle. She noted Miami-Dade County switched to single-stream recycling last year and has seen a 50-percent increase in recycling. Reza-Brown hopes for a similar increase in Broward County, where the recycling rate is currently about 24 percent.

*To find out if your community is participating in the new single-stream recycling program, visit [www.broward.org/waste](http://www.broward.org/waste).*

## Wheelabrator disposes of flags properly

### FLAG DISPOSAL: from Page 1

mechanic in the Navy, served in the Middle East, the Caribbean, Spain and Iceland. After 22 years of service, Nez retired in 2004 and is now a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion honor guards. He and Travis spoke to local members of the VFW to come up with proper protocol.

"I was more than happy to do it," said Nez. "I wanted to make sure that when we disposed of the flags, we would do so in the right manner."

Nez organized a dress rehearsal the day before the ceremony. Employees representing all branches of the service came out to participate as members of the honor guard. They included Hanif Comarcho, Javier Corredor, Jim Epsilantis, Caple Malcolm, Oscar Marengo, John Moore, Nez,

Roberto Pedrosa, Mark Rafeal and Eddie Turner.

The ceremony took place just prior to the startup of the first boiler, following a successful outage. The flags were placed on a sheet inside the boiler and covered. Once the ceremonial flag was passed from employee to employee, Nez placed it upon the white sheet covering the rest of the flags. The detail came to attention and saluted the flags while employee Rafeal played "Taps" — a melody that is performed by the military at burial and memorial services. Nez then ignited the boiler, addressed the detail and dismissed them.

"It was pretty moving," said Plant Manager Scott McIlvaine, who could not be present for the ceremony, but has since watched video footage.

"I've watched the video over five times, and it still puts a tear to my eye," said Nez.

# SOS

## Wheelabrator and community answer the call

After a summer of fun and games, the children who call SOS Children's Villages-Florida home were ready to head back to school – with a little help.

Each year, SOS Children's Villages-Florida, located in Coconut Creek, holds the Back to School and Ready campaign to collect school supplies and donations to get the children ready for classes. Being prepared for school each day, having clothes and shoes to wear, and participating in school activities was once something foster children couldn't imagine, even though they are essential elements of a good education.

"The donations we receive mean our boys and girls don't have to worry about fitting in with the other kids at school or not being able to do their work because they are not prepared," says Village CEO Jeff Zirulnick. "The hope generated from the simple act of receiving a new backpack, being able to go on a field trip or bringing home their school pictures is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children."

Generous community support also means the SOS Village does not have to worry about providing the necessities and can focus on education. Arriving at SOS, most foster children are already behind in reading and writing. All the children at SOS receive tutoring twice a week to assess their skills and provide the tools and help they need to catch up and move ahead.

In June, three sisters — Casey, Michelle and Kayla — were excited to bring home their report cards for the first time because they increased their grade-point averages from 1.5 to more than 3.0. Eleven SOS kids — Erice, Barbara, Crystal, William, Ashley, Richard, Melina, Toni, Andrew, Betzy, and Danny — took another step toward fulfilling their dreams when they graduated; eight graduated high school and are moving on to college or trade school, and the others graduated from trade schools ready to start a career.

Overall, the programs and support SOS provides are paying off for the children fortunate enough to call SOS Children's

Villages-Florida home. Eighty-three percent of foster children who grew up at SOS have graduated high school. The national average is 50 percent for foster children and 84 percent for non-foster children.

Wheelabrator is a long-time supporter of SOS Children's Villages-Florida, which opened in 1993. The company has donated more than \$315,000, including a \$100,000 gift in 2002 that endowed one of the 12 homes children live in. In addition to sponsoring programs and events, Wheelabrator has a presence on the SOS board of directors.

SOS Children's Villages-Florida is home to up to 75 foster children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The SOS Village setting allows brothers and sisters, often separated in foster care, to be reunited. The nurturing and support that SOS provides prepares them to be productive members of society.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.sosflorida.com](http://www.sosflorida.com).

## Driver Appreciation Day at Wheelabrator



### North Broward

Above, Matt Handal, former North Broward plant engineer (recently transferred to South Broward) works the grill. At right, Health and Safety Director Neil Swanson shows his appreciation for a Deerfield Beach driver.



### South Broward

At left, Plant Manager Jairaj Gosine offers thanks to driver Edwin Lebron from Waste Management (WM) Broward.

Below, from left, WM Dade driver Ronald Larry, Yarei Rivera and Joyce Tate of Wheelabrator South Broward.



# Wheelabrator means business

Davie-Cooper City Chamber members tour South Broward plant



Guests pose for a photo before taking a tour of the Wheelabrator South Broward facility. PHOTOS: TODD MCFLIKER



Neil Swanson of Wheelabrator South Broward and Dawn McCormick of Waste Management.



Yarei Rivera, left, and Joyce Tate of Wheelabrator South Broward.



Valerie Moran, right, toured the plant with her children, Mary and Liam.



Neil Swanson shows a guest a close-up view of inside the boiler.



From left, Davie-Cooper City Chamber member Mercedes Cobb with Sally Alvarez and Vanisa Rose of Wheelabrator South Broward.



Chamber guests get ready to take the tour of the Wheelabrator South Broward plant.



Amelio Mendez, left, and Neil Swanson help a visitor get a good view of the boiler.



From left, Tony Spadaccia of Waste Management, Davie Mayor Judy Paul and Linda Sapienza of Wheelabrator.