



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Westfield Insurance Sponsors Event to Educate Businesses about Florida Scholarship Program

Westfield Insurance Contributes \$397,000 to Florida Scholarship Program, Step Up For Students, and Invites Local Businesses to Yuengling Brewery in Tampa to Learn about Program

TAMPA, FL—October 20, 2011—Thursday evening more than 70 local business leaders arrived at the Yuengling Brewery in Tampa for a tour of the brewery and an *Oktoberfest* themed event featuring Yuengling beer paired with traditional German fare in the facility's biergarten.

This event was not a typical happy hour, though. Guests gathered to learn how corporate tax contributions to the scholarship program have helped over 180,000 low-income children in Florida find the school that best fits their learning needs—Step Up For Students.

As an extension of their partnership with the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Step Up For Students, Westfield Insurance hosted the event at the Yuengling Brewery in Tampa to educate other corporations that may be able to contribute.

Westfield Insurance, a customer-focused insurance, banking and related financial services group of businesses, joined Step Up For Students in 2011 and has contributed \$397,000 to provide scholarships for underprivileged Florida youth to attend the school that best meets their learning needs. This donation will provide 96 scholarships for low-income Florida children.

“When we learned that supporting Step Up For Students is a simple tax redirection for companies, we wanted go a step further and encourage other companies to utilize this program,” said Ed Largent, Westfield Insurance leader and president. “Education is a top priority when it comes to Westfield Insurance supporting communities we serve. Today’s youth are tomorrow’s business leaders, and we are proud to know we are making a positive difference in the lives of so many students in Florida.”

Since the program’s inception in 2002, corporations like Westfield Insurance have contributed more than \$800 million to Step Up For Students. Through this program, corporations are able to redirect a portion of their Florida insurance premium tax liability to fund kindergarten-12th grade scholarships, and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for the amount they redirect.

“Because of the generosity of our corporate partners at Westfield Insurance, nearly 100 more children now have the opportunity to find a school that best meets their educational needs—

--MORE--

children who otherwise would not have that kind of opportunity,” said Step Up For Students President Doug Tuthill. “We are grateful to have donors like Westfield who want to help us spread the word about our program.”

Step Up For Students Scholarship recipients are able to choose from approximately 1,200 private schools throughout the state, and receive up to \$4,011 towards tuition. Or a family can elect to use a \$500 transportation scholarship to attend an out-of-district public school. Scholarships are needs based and are awarded to a child whose family household income qualifies for free or reduced lunch.

About Westfield Insurance

In business for more than 163 years, Westfield Insurance provides commercial and personal insurance in 21 active states and surety services to customers in 31 states. Westfield is one of the nation’s 50 largest property and casualty insurance groups, represented by a network of over 1,100 independent insurance agencies. Westfield puts words into actions by supporting nonprofit organizations and choosing sponsorships that make a difference in the communities where we work and live. These efforts help us achieve business success in ways that honor our values and respect for people. Learn more about Westfield Insurance at www.WestfieldInsurance.com.

About Step Up For Students

Step Up For Students is a nonprofit organization that administers the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for low-income Florida students. The scholarship program was created by the Florida Legislature in 2001 and is funded by corporations that receive dollar-for-dollar tax credit for their contributions. For more information, visit www.StepUpForStudents.org.

###



Suggested Photo Caption (Left to right): Gretchen Long, Westfield program and grant manager, Shannon Coates, scholarship recipient’s mother, Doug Tuthill, Step Up For Students president and Chris Henderson, Westfield regional agency manager.