

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From one HOPE to another

Miss Florida 2006 teams up with Miss Florida 2009 to help homeless families in Central Florida

Orlando, FL- Helping Other People Eat, Inc. (HOPE, Inc.) is joining the list of supporters of the 2009 Christmas in the City event held by the HOPE Foundation (Housing, Outreach, Prevention and Education) on Sunday, December 20th, at the Oviedo Aquatic Center from 1:00 - 5:00pm.

H.O.P.E., Inc. will be donating over 600 pair of jeans to the families that the HOPE Foundation is supporting this year. Since 2005, HOPE Inc. has collected jeans throughout the year as part of their Pageant Pants campaign called "The Great Jeans Giveaway." The jeans are a vehicle that help open the doors of communication to talk about preventing eating disorders, being comfortable with who you are and not trying to "change your genes" through unhealthy eating habits. Over the past four years, over 6,000 jeans have been collected and donated to organizations across the state of Florida.

"It has been personally gratifying to be able to impact so many people's lives over last few years," said former Miss Florida 2006 and founder of HOPE Inc., Allison Kreiger. "This powerful message resonates statewide with over 25 charities having been recipients of the donated jeans from the Great Jeans Giveaway."

The HOPE Foundation who hosts Christmas in the City annually, was started by HOPE and it's Church Coalition "OneBody" (a group of over 20 local churches). Krissy Todd, Founder and Executive Director of HOPE is the mother of Miss Florida 2009, Rachael Todd. Rachael is promoting this charity throughout her year of service as Miss Florida.

In 2008, the HOPE Foundation was able to provide over 500 families with a complete Christmas dinner, gave over 600 children 2 new gifts, donated 215 gift cards to the teens, and provided a hot meal to 1,000 people. In total, the HOPE Foundation provided over \$60,000 worth of food and gifts to those in need.

"It is exciting to be able to support another Miss Florida's philanthropy," said Kreiger. "We are looking forward to providing jeans every year to the HOPE Foundation."

For more information about the HOPE Foundation, please visit www.helpforthehomeless.net. For additional information about H.O.P.E., Inc., please visit www.HopeToLive.com.

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Helping Other People Eat, Inc., (H.O.P.E., Inc.) is focused on the prevention and awareness of eating disorders. It strives to educate all age groups on the warning signs, symptoms and side effects that accompany eating disorders. H.O.P.E. Inc. offers information, tutorials, references and public speakers to aid in eliminating eating disorders. H.O.P.E. Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and works to provide funding for treatment for those who cannot afford it. H.O.P.E. Inc. supports all other advocacy groups and organizations with the same values and efforts to aid in this cause. Since 2001, they have spoken to over 40,000 individuals about the dangers of eating disorders and through their awareness campaign "Pageant Pants- the Great Jeans Giveaway," they have collected over 6,000 pair of jeans and donated them to people in need across the state of Florida. For more information, please contact Allison Kreiger, AllisonKreiger@yahoo.com, or visit www.HopeToLive.com.

The HOPE Foundation mission is to prevent and reduce homelessness in Central Florida by equipping individuals and families to become self-sufficient through Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education.” HOPE addresses the issues facing individuals and families in crisis by networking with local agencies and organizations, partnering to become more effective, studying best and emerging practices, and developing innovative problem-solving ideas in a comprehensive, coordinated, and strategic fashion. HOPE engages communities to develop and plan long term solutions that address the problems facing those in crisis.

HOPE is comprised of the Sonshine Thrift Store, Food Pantry and Resource Center, located in Oviedo, Florida. HOPE also hosts many outreach events throughout the year, to bring awareness to the true face of homelessness today. For more information, please visit www.helpforthehomeless.net or contact **Joan Faulkner**, Joan@helpforthehomeless.net.