

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Danielle Flood, Public Relations/Communications Manager
Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)
Telephone: (239) 567-3312 (o) (239) 560-0458 (c)
Fax: (239) 543-5317
dflood@echonet.org
<http://www.echonet.org/>

ECHO Edible Schoolyard Garden a first for Bonita Springs Middle School

Fort Myers, Florida, January 13, 2009—ECHO Global Farm (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) and the Bonita Springs Community Foundation are teaming up to create an edible schoolyard garden for Bonita Springs Middle School.

A \$3,000 check from the Community Foundation, to be presented on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Bonita Springs Middle School, marks the beginning of many lessons for the students, teachers, parents and community members.

This edible schoolyard project will put ECHO's expertise in food plants and sustainable gardening to use providing parents, teachers and community volunteers with a "living classroom" to teach the students about edible plants, nutrition, and the benefits of growing food right in their own backyards.

The Executive Director of the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc., Marshall T. Bower, Esq. states "The edible schoolyard garden project at Bonita Springs Middle School will be an integral part of the school-wide effort to become a world class school promoting good citizenship, the importance of studying hard and attaining good grades and preparation for career training and a college education. The vision for Bonita Springs Middle School is to offer every student the opportunity to begin preparing for a productive and fulfilling career through scholarship opportunities and civic involvement."

The benefits do not only apply to the students. "This project has the potential to save Bonita Springs Middle School \$100 per month on landscape maintenance," observes Dr. Ruthie Lohmeyer, Principal of Bonita Springs Middle School.

ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) provides sustainable options to world hunger through agricultural training, innovative options, and networking with community leaders and missionaries in 180 developing countries. ECHO seeks to find agricultural solutions for families growing food under difficult conditions. ECHO's international headquarters is located in Fort Myers, FL.

The Bonita Springs Community Foundation, a division of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation was established in 1997 to promote philanthropy and build a spirit of community to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the greater Bonita Springs area, now and for generations to come, through stewardship of permanently endowed funds. For more information, please contact the Bonita Springs Community Foundation at 239-274-5900 or go online to www.bonitacommfoundation.com.

###