



**255 Live Oak Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32963
(772) 589-5050
JANUARY 3, 2008**

NEWS RELEASE ● NEWS RELEASE ● NEWS RELEASE ● NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Holly Dill, Executive Director

Wachovia Foundation Grant to Support Environmental Education

The Wachovia Foundation has awarded the Environmental Learning Center a Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollar (\$5,500) gift. The funds will be used to underwrite ELC's environmental education programs.

Joseph Lembo, President of Wachovia in Treasure Coast, and Greg Brown, Vice President/Relationship Manager, delivered the check to Eileen Connelly, ELC Board member and Chairperson of the Education Committee. Ms. Connelly spent time describing ELC's education programs in more details and gave them a personal tour of the 64-acre campus on Wabasso Island in northern Indian River County.

ELC's active outdoor style of education melds ecological concepts with exploration of native habitats. ELC is the only privately funded, not-for-profit organization in the area whose sole mission is one of environmental education.

Wachovia decided to support the ELC because the financial institution recognizes the relationship between environmental education and the area's quality of life enjoyed by residents and tourists. There is a direct link between a healthy environment, productive businesses, real estate property values, and recreational opportunities. These goals are consistent with The

Wachovia Foundation's mission to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference. It is a private foundation that provides grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support four primary focus areas: Education, Community Development, Health and Human Services and Arts and Culture.

The Environmental Learning Center is a non-profit nature center located between US1 and A1A off County Road 510 at the western end of the Wabasso bridge. Families may tour the island campus, walk the elevated boardwalks, and visit the exhibits free of charge Tuesday through Sunday. Visit www.ELCweb.org for a complete schedule of field excursions and educational programs for youngsters.

###