

OU AIMS TO TOP RECORD AMOUNT FOR UNICEF IN 2008

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CONTACT: International Programs Center (405) 325-3581

NORMAN – University of Oklahoma students, faculty and staff kicked off October with the second annual Halloween trick-or-treat campaign to help underprivileged children around the world through UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund).

Last year, OU donated more than \$5,300 to UNICEF during the fall drive, qualifying OU for designation as an elite UNICEF “emissary school” as one of the top givers in the United States. It also was the largest contribution on record that OU has ever made to the international children’s organization.

“It takes just \$2.06 to provide food and water for one hungry child,” said Zach Messitte, vice provost for International Programs and executive director of the International Programs Center. “The OU community understands the importance of helping those in need in our community and around the world.”

Last October, volunteers distributed 1,500 orange trick-or-treat boxes around campus and to local businesses. Costume parties to benefit UNICEF were held, and the International Advisory Committee helped coordinate student efforts on campus along with the Model United Nations Club. Several fraternities and sororities assisted as well, he noted. Roosevelt Elementary and Whittier Middle School in Norman, along with Noble’s Curtis Inge Middle School and Noble High School, also made significant contributions. OU’s Pan American Student Association raised the most money of any campus organization and was recognized with a plaque and a certificate from the International Programs Center.

The 2008 OU student coordinator of the UNICEF campaign hopes that OU will surpass last year’s record donation. “The student response to the UNICEF drive has been inspired,” said Natalie Reese, a senior International and Area Studies major from Bartlesville. “All across campus, students from every background are asking their friends and families, neighbors and classmates to reach in to their pockets and donate their quarters, nickels, dimes and dollars to bring food, water and shelter to millions of children around the world.”

For more information, please call the International Programs Center at (405) 325-3581 or dmcmmom@ou.edu.

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