

# Welcome to Take Stock in Children

## about us

Take Stock in Children was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization in Florida that provides a unique opportunity for low-income and at-risk students, many from minority families, to escape the cycle of poverty through education. We offer our students college scholarships, caring volunteer mentors and hope for a better life. Our comprehensive services start in middle school, continue through high school and include their transition into college.

Our program is based on the principal that given extensive support, motivation and accountability, children will work hard to ensure that they graduate from high school and attain a college degree. We fund our college scholarships and student services through a unique public-private fund raising model, and our mentors generously volunteer their mentoring services to our children.

Take Stock in Children's multi-year commitment to at-risk children throughout our state is also an investment in the communities in which our students live. We know that the education of a child is an investment in their future and the assured way of breaking the cycle of poverty. Our goal is to continue to reduce the number of high school drop-outs and to increase the number of students who finish college and enter the workforce successfully.

Since our inception in 1995, Take Stock in Children has demonstrated its success and sustainability by delivering life changing results for our students.

Highlights of our results are as follows:

- Take Stock in Children has served over 16,000 children throughout 67 counties in Florida
- Take Stock in Children has over \$109 million in Florida Prepaid Foundation scholarship assets
- Take Stock in Children has generated over 1,000,000 mentor volunteer hours and currently has over 7,500 mentors
- Take Stock in Children's current student population consists of over 65% of minority children
- Take Stock in Children is funded from both the private and public sector

Please join us as a mentor volunteer or donate to Take Stock in Children. Your commitment and support will pave the way to better lives for deserving children in our communities.

our **Children** & their communities  
thankyou 



# drop-outs

Low-income and minority children face insurmountable obstacles that make finishing high school difficult and going to college almost impossible. Nearly half of Florida's children living in poverty are minorities, and are being raised in environments that put them at risk for falling victim to the dangerous cycles of substance abuse, violence and gang activity. Often times these children are overlooked and under served. They do not have the resources offered to their peers from higher socioeconomic levels to complete their education. Take Stock in Children is committed to solving the drop-out crisis in Florida.

Our objective is to ensure that students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to complete their post-secondary education and to successfully enter the work force.

the **problem**

[TakeStockinChildren.org](http://TakeStockinChildren.org)



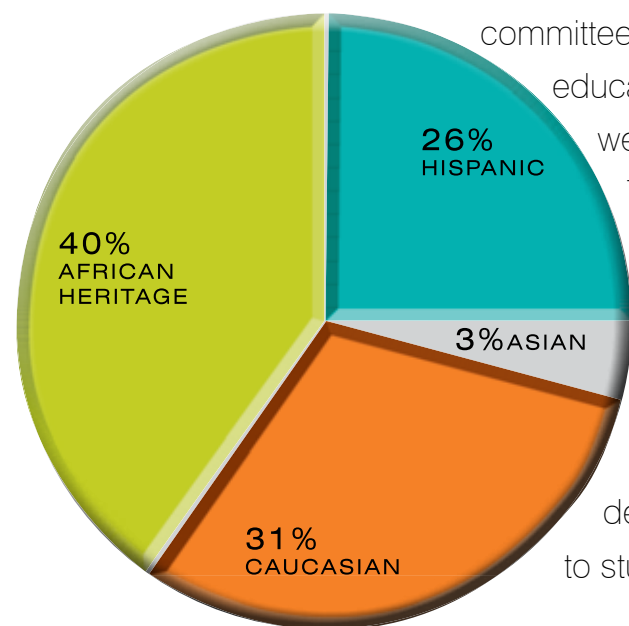


# opportunity for all

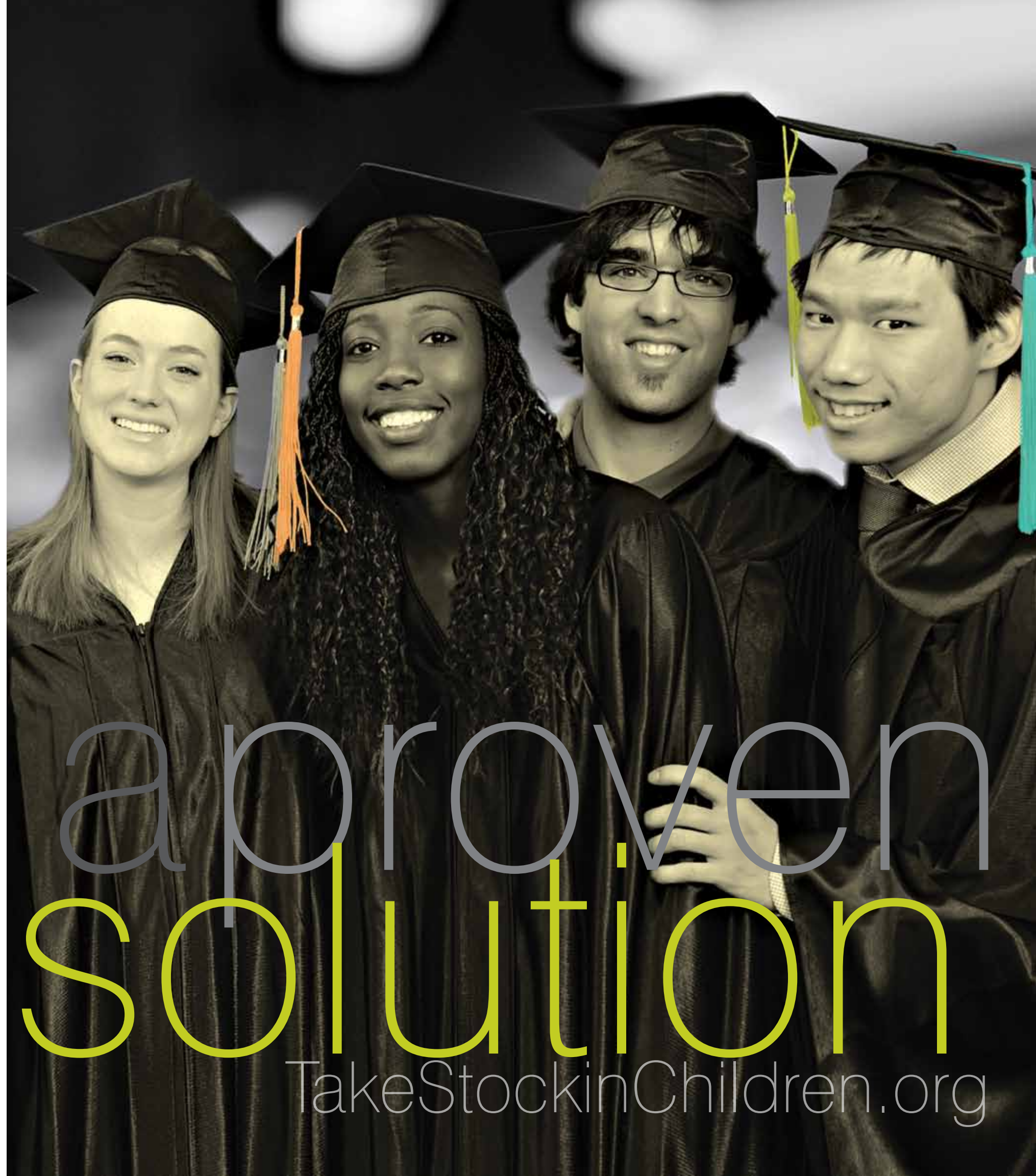
Take Stock in Children is active in over 800 schools throughout the State of Florida. Students are selected between the 6th and 9th grades, many from minority families, and must meet our low-income and at-risk guidelines. Students are selected in their local communities by highly engaged

committees that are comprised of education and civic leaders, as well as corporate sponsors.

Take Stock in Children partners with community education foundations, community colleges and school districts throughout the State of Florida to deliver our program services to students.



Take Stock in Children scholars represent the *diversity* of our communities.



a proven  
**SOLUTION**  
TakeStockinChildren.org

# 1 student's personal commitment to success

## SELF ACCOUNTABILITY

Since 1995, more than 16,000 children in the State of Florida have been enrolled in the Take Stock in Children program. Upon selection, students and parents/guardians sign contracts agreeing to fulfill specific performance standards. To be awarded their scholarships, students must stay in school, maintain good grades, exhibit good behavior, remain crime and drug free, and meet with their mentors once a week. Students are held accountable; if they do not fulfill our program standards, they risk losing their valuable college scholarship.

# 2 parental involvement

## INCREASING THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for supporting and encouraging their children's academic success by 1) developing positive relationships with teachers, mentors, school administrators, and Take Stock in Children staff, and 2) playing active roles in the educational, cultural, and school-based activities of their child.

# 3 motivation and support

## VOLUNTEER MENTORING

Each child is matched with a caring adult mentor who meets with the student at his/her school for an hour each week. These volunteer mentors are recruited, trained, supported, monitored, and evaluated by the Take Stock in Children local programs. Mentors provide academic and behavioral motivation, guidance, friendship, support and are encouraged to continue their service over a multi-year period with their Take Stock in Children student.

# 4 academic assistance

## STUDENT ADVOCATES/CASE MANAGERS

Each child in the program is assigned a student advocate/case manager who meets with the student and provides assistance and program support to ensure his or her academic success. Student advocates work closely with mentors and school personnel to confirm that each child is achieving continued success.

# 5 college scholarships

## HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Each child who successfully fulfills the requirements of Take Stock in Children receives a fully paid college tuition scholarship. Students who prefer post-secondary vocational training may select a vocational education option or a course of study at a community college leading to a two-year technical degree.

# 6 continuation of mentoring

## INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF COLLEGE GRADUATION

At Take Stock in Children, we want to ensure a successful transition into college. Starting in 2010, we will provide college transition and college retention services for our students through their freshman year of college attendance.

how  
it works  
TakeStockinChildren.org





# our success . . .

## GREAT RESULTS

Take Stock in Children has provided demonstrable results bridging high school graduation, college enrollment, and college graduation.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

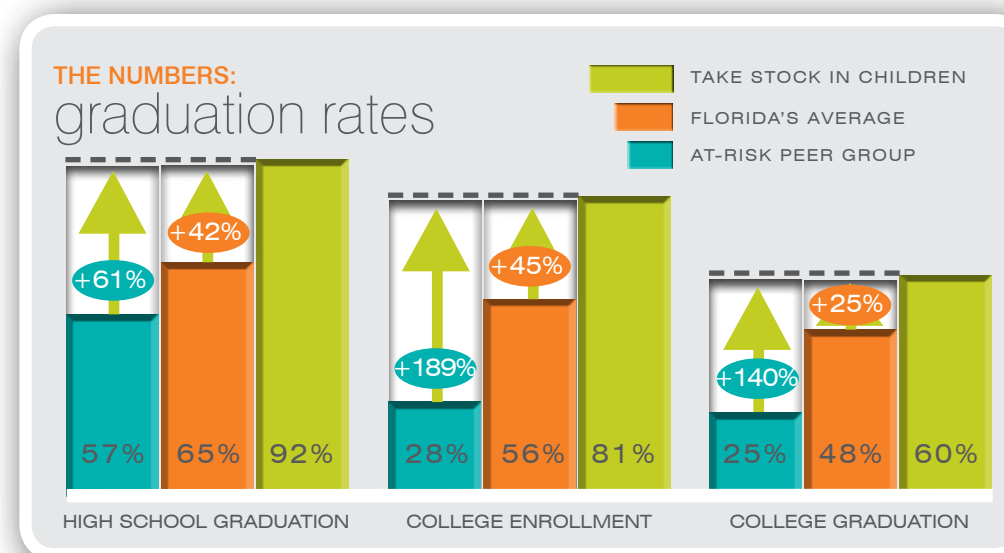
Take Stock in Children scholars' high school graduation rate is **42% higher** than Florida's average, and **61% higher** than their at-risk peer group.

### COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE

Take Stock in Children scholars' college enrollment rate is **45% higher** than Florida's average, and amazingly it is **almost triple or 189% higher** than their at-risk peer group.

### COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE

Take Stock in Children scholars' college graduation rate is **25% higher** than Florida's average and is **140% higher** than their at-risk peer group.



DESERVING LOW-INCOME STUDENT



MENTORING



- 6TH - 9TH GRADE
- HIGH DROP-OUT RISK
- ACADEMICALLY PROMISING

- WEEKLY MENTORING
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- GUIDANCE



CASE MANAGEMENT

- ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE & BEHAVIORAL MONITORING
- INDIVIDUALIZED INTERVENTION & REMEDIATION



ACCOUNTABILITY



- STUDENTS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS SIGN A PERFORMANCE CONTRACT
- STUDENTS REMAIN ALCOHOL, CRIME & DRUG FREE
- STUDENTS MAINTAIN A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA AND GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL



SCHOLARSHIP

- SUPPORT UNTIL GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

right  
turn

TakeStockinChildren.org

# how you can help . . .

## what is a mentor?

A mentor is a caring, compassionate adult who chooses to devote their time to a young person, offering them support, guidance, and encouragement. If you can donate one hour per week, you can change a life by helping a child build a solid foundation of values, establish goals, improve their academic and life skills, while developing their self-esteem and confidence.

## why mentor?

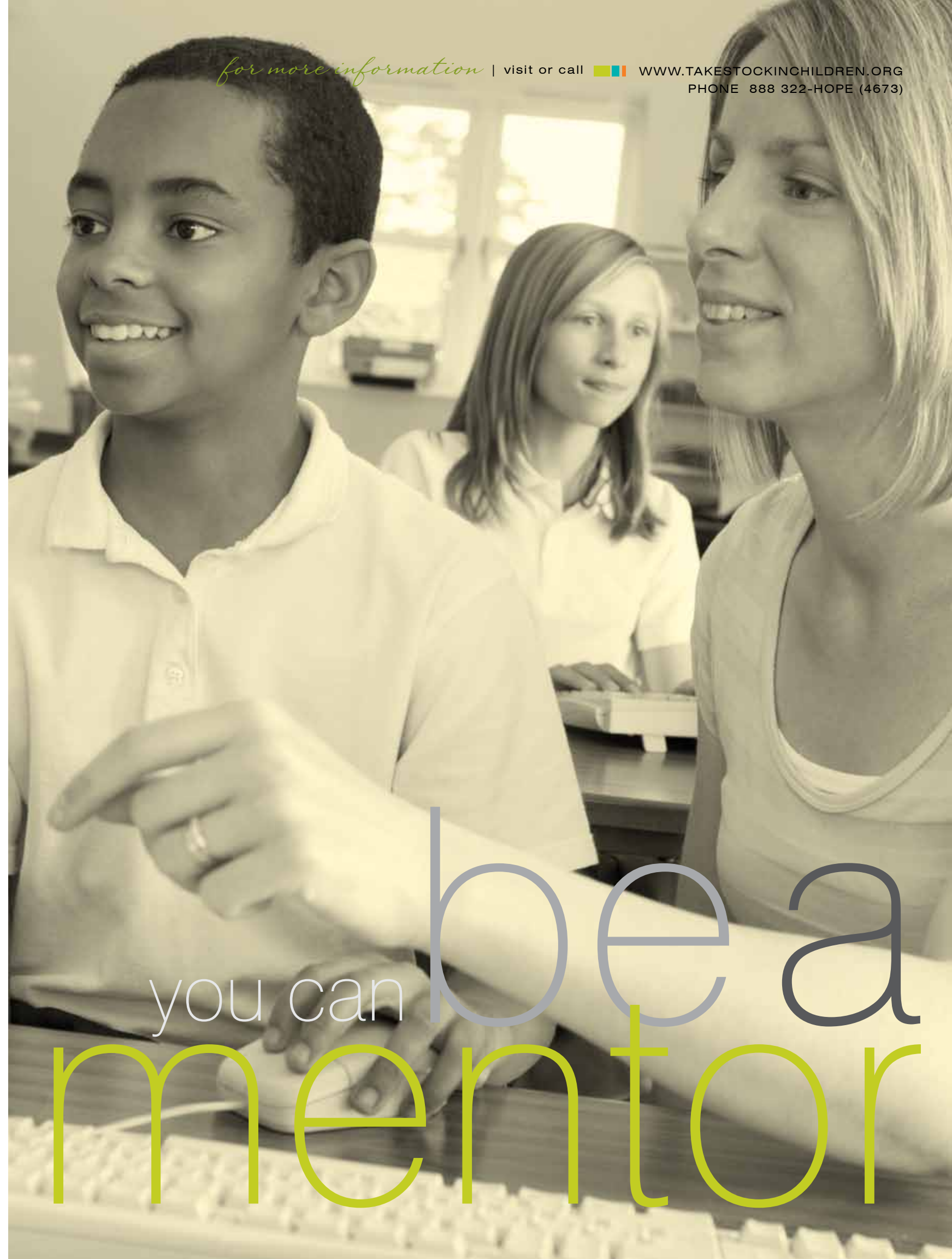
Our success rate at Take Stock in Children is a result of a comprehensive approach provided by our program. One of the key and proven success factors is the role of the mentor. More and more people want to have a lasting, profound impact in their community. They understand that the commitment of becoming a mentor can change a child's life while helping them grow personally. Can you remember adults who paid attention to you; who believed in you; and who guided you during your childhood? These individuals served as mentors. Wouldn't you like to have someone think of you as their life-changing, trusted mentor?

## where & when does mentoring occur?

Mentoring sessions range from 45-60 minutes and occur at a school near your home or workplace, during school hours. The days and times of mentoring sessions are arranged between the mentor and mentee depending on their individual schedules and classes. As a result, mentoring is convenient for both students and mentors.

## how do I become a Take Stock in Children mentor?

Take Stock in Children mentors learn the principles and guidelines of school-based, academic-focused mentoring. They participate in an orientation session and receive a manual that contains tools for addressing the general needs of their students: improving grades, preparing for college, career planning, and developing life skills. Mentors also will be able to use the weekly Mentor Minute, an online resource center, to provide support services that target the specific needs of their students.



you can be a  
mentor

volunteer





It is an **honor** to be a part of  
this **life-changing** program.

- MIKE MAROONE  
PRESIDENT & COO, AUTONATION

Take Stock in Children has  
**dedicated** countless resources & one-on-one  
assistance to Florida's neediest students,  
ensuring they receive  
the attention they **deserve.**

- DR. ERIC J. SMITH  
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

If you have ever wondered, will I  
make a **difference** in this life,  
**mentor a child** and remove all doubt.

- PENNY SHAFFER  
PRESIDENT, SOUTH FLORIDA  
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA

Take Stock in Children is **leading** the way in  
providing underprivileged children with a  
path of **success.**

- VINCE ROIG  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Take Stock in  
**Children**<sup>®</sup>

Going to **college** is  
no longer a luxury, it is a  
**necessity.**

- DR. EDUARDO PADRON  
PRESIDENT, MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

*scholarships, mentors & hope*