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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Very Special Arts Florida-Brevard County to Host Interactive Festival at Brevard Zoo Students with disabilities participate in arts and crafts, music activities during three-day event

Rockledge, Fla. – <u>Brevard Achievement Center</u> (BAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency whose mission is to provide persons with disabilities innovative services and opportunities to achieve personal success, proudly presents the annual <u>Very Special Arts Florida-Brevard County</u> (VSAF-BC) Zoo Festival for Brevard Public School Exceptional Student Education (ESE) elementary and middle school students. The Festival will be held on March 1, 2 and 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brevard Zoo.

Over 400 volunteers will assist approximately 1,100 ESE students during the three-day "Purposeful Acts of Kindness" themed event. Participating students will find make-and-take arts and crafts projects, engaging music stations and specially designed physical activities located throughout the Zoo. And while the Zoo will be buzzing with students, teachers, family and friends, the public is encouraged to come out and enjoy the Festival as part of their paid Zoo admission.

"The Festival is not only an interactive, fun arts experience for students," said VSAF-BC Director, Lee Sorensen, "it offers everyone involved a chance to visit the animals as well."

Sorensen added that the following supporters are greatly appreciated for funding this year's Zoo Festival: Aqua Blue Pools & Spas, Brevard County Board of County Commissioners through the Brevard Cultural Alliance, GFWC Viera Woman's Club, Margaret Heins Foundation, Knights of Columbus 6125, Ladies Auxiliary Council 6125, Eleanor Baird Kristensen Foundation, Ms. Katherine Milikin, Ms. Peggy Nolan, Mr. Henry Poletto, United Way of Brevard and Very Special Arts-Florida.

VSAF-BC is one of two art programs at the Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) and a partner with VSA-Florida (VSAFL). The program's mission is to create a society in which people with disabilities learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts. VSAFL is headquartered at the University of South Florida and is a part of the international VSA Affiliate Network, a program of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. To learn more about the Zoo Festival or VSAF-BC, visit bacbrevard.com or contact Sorensen at (321) 537-4243.