

## **Local Couple Makes Donation to Fund College for Students in the Take Stock in Children Program**

*For immediate release – April 25, 2019*

**Viera, Florida-** Brevard Schools Foundation is pleased to announce a \$16,000 donation from Mike and Rashmi Shah. This gift will provide funds to purchase Florida Prepaid Scholarships for students in the Brevard Schools Foundation Take Stock in Children Program. The Shah family has been a long-time supporter of the Brevard Schools Foundation, and their donations have assisted with several programs including Take Stock in Children, ABC Awards, and The Supply Zone.

When asked about the impact the Shah family has had on Take Stock in Children, College Success Coach, Susan Knowles replied “The support from the Shah family has been so integral to helping the Take Stock in Children program continue to provide an opportunity for low-income, at-risk students to make their college dreams a reality.”

Take Stock in Children provides a unique opportunity for aspiring low-income, at-risk students to escape the cycle of poverty through education. The program offers students a caring mentor, College Success Coach and hope for a better future, with the incentive of a college scholarship upon graduation.

“These scholarships are allowing more students to access higher education,” said Janice Kershaw, President and CEO of the Brevard Schools Foundation. “We appreciate the Shah’s continued generosity.” Brevard’s Take Stock in Children program boasts a 100% graduation rate compared to the state average of 70% for low-income students. Kershaw said noted that scholarships make a difference, as well as volunteer mentors and program staff who monitor students, provide interventions, conduct and career and college readiness coaching. The Take Stock in Children program not only helps make sure students graduate high school, but also prepares them for college. The Shah’s gift will be matched by the Florida Prepaid Foundation Project STARS program.

### **ABOUT TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN**

Take Stock in Children is a scholarship and mentoring program that provides low-income students an opportunity to fulfill their academic potential and to attend college. The Brevard Schools Foundation administers the program for all Brevard public middle and high schools. It is the strategic mission of Take Stock in Children to reach more students through aggressive fundraising. Every scholarship dollar raised is generously matched through the Florida Prepaid Foundation Project STARS program. It is the Brevard Schools Foundation vision to provide scholarships to all qualified students wishing to improve their economic status by obtaining a college degree. The program has an ongoing need for volunteer mentors to serve the students in the program. Mentor trainings are provided on the first Tuesday of each month.

To learn more about this program, please visit: <http://brevardschoolsfoundation.org>