



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **428 BEARS DONATED TO FHP CHILDREN'S PROGRAM** *SMART<sup>SM</sup> SunGuide TMC Collects New Stuffed Animals for FHP Troop "L"*

(Fort Lauderdale, FL – January 18, 2007) – Florida Highway Patrol Troop "L" received 428 stuffed animals to use for their Care Bears program. The SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) coordinated an inter-office campaign to collect the bears, quickly catching on with partnering agencies, friends and family. Donations came from Florida Department of Transportation (District IV), Broward County Traffic Engineering Division and Public Works, and Discovery Preschool Center of Coral Springs.

As part of the SMART SunGuide Awards program on January 18, 2007, Sergeant Mark Wysocky, Public Affairs Officer from FHP Troop "L," was presented with the mass collection of stuff animals. FHP Troopers keep these stuffed animals in their patrol cars, ready to give them to children who may be involved in a traumatizing traffic event. "I think that Care Bears is a great program," said Wysocky. "Small children at crash scenes - especially if there is an injury - feel much more secure when they have a small animal to hang on to. With large donation, we'll be able to stock all of our Troop's stations with bears for the whole year!"

The SMART SunGuide TMC was pleased with the support of this new project. The original goal was to collect 100 stuffed animals – the result was over four times that. "The District Four ITS team recognizes the significance of the Care Bears program. We wanted to show our support to our local Troop by making sure they had enough bears to last all year," said Steve Corbin, District ITS Operations Manager. "We hope to be able to provide even more bears next year!" The TMC plans to make this an annual activity.

The SMART SunGuide TMC is a 24-hour facility run by the Florida Department of Transportation District IV and the Broward County Traffic Engineering Division. The TMC monitors freeways and major arterial routes with closed circuit TV cameras, speed sensors, traffic signal control devices and a fleet of Road Ranger Service Patrol vehicles. In coordination with local law enforcement and fire rescue, TMC operators identify and respond aggressively to quickly clear incidents, disabled vehicles and other interruptions to traffic with the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) equipment. Information from the TMC is displayed on Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and on the region's 5-1-1 Advanced Traveler Information Service. For real-time traffic conditions or information about the SMART SunGuide TMC, please visit [www.SMARTSunGuide.com](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com).

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