

## ***MTI Cosmetology Students support Locks of Love***

***MTI Cosmo students visit Tuttle Elementary School to give students and staff hair cuts***

***(Bradenton, FL—December 18, 2009)*** Five Cosmetology students from Manatee Technical Institute performed a SkillsUSA community service project at Tuttle Elementary school on Monday. The stylists gave free hair cuts and styles to students and teachers donating to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

This is the fifth year that the two schools have teamed up to help the Locks of Love Foundation. Five students and one teacher participated, each donating at least 10 inches of hair. Aside from a new hairdo, each participant received flowers, balloons and a stuffed animal of her choice. Tuttle Network News (TNN), the daily, student-run news show, broadcasted the event for the entire school. Teachers tuned in and discussed with their classes that giving money isn't the only way to help others in need.

Mrs. Deb Laban, third-grade teacher and coordinator of the program, said, "Our annual Locks of Love event at Tuttle Elementary is always a way to teach students how rewarding it is to give to others, especially at this time of the year."

"As a first year Locks of Love participant, it feels great to know we're helping a good cause and making kids smile at the same time," said Savanna Spivey, Cosmetology student.

The MTI cosmetology students who participated were Evelyn Garcia, Genices Morua, Karina Fuentes, Mariele Forney, Savanna Spivey, and Sonia Alonso. The students are members of the MTI Chapter of SkillsUSA, a national career and technical student organization that promotes citizenship, employability skills and ethics.

The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations. MTI is a 2007 Tampa Bay Business of the Year and has won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the past six years.