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For Immediate Release

HMSHost Partners With Florida's Step Up For Students; Contributes \$400K in Donations

BETHESDA, MD — Global restaurateur [HMSHost](#) has pledged \$400,000 to Step Up For Students, a nonprofit that helps manage the [Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program for lower-income school children in Florida](#).

HMSHost's contribution will benefit children whose educational options are limited by household income, helping underprivileged children attend a K-12 school of their parents' choice that better fits their learning needs. Parents can choose between a scholarship toward private school tuition and fees, or one to offset the cost of transportation to an out-of-county public school.

"HMSHost values education immensely, and investing in the local communities where we operate is extremely important to our company," said HMSHost President and CEO Steve Johnson. "The Step Up For Students organization is doing important work in Florida and it is a privilege to have formed this partnership to help set up Florida youth for success."

The scholarship program's funding comes from tax-credited donations from corporations like HMSHost that do business in Florida.

"Thanks to HMSHost, 66 Florida schoolchildren will have the opportunity to attend a school that fits the way they learn, regardless of where they live or their parents' income," said Step Up For Students President Doug Tuthill. "On behalf of Step Up and our families, we thank HMSHost for its generosity and we are grateful they have chosen to support our mission."

Florida enacted the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program in 2001 to expand educational opportunities for children of families with limited financial resources. Since its inception, the program has grown exponentially and awarded more than 95,000 scholarships to economically disadvantaged students for the 2016-17 school year.

HMSHost operates restaurants in nine Florida airports and is committed to supporting state and local communities. Visit HMSHost's [location finder](#) to see where HMSHost operates. Further details about HMSHost's commitment to community relations can be found here: <http://www.hmshost.com/community>.

About HMSHost

Global restaurateur [HMSHost](#) is a world leader in creating dining for travel venues. HMSHost operates in more than 120 airports around the globe, including 44 of the 50 busiest airports in North America. The Company has annual sales in excess of \$2.8 billion and employs more than 37,000 sales associates worldwide. HMSHost is a part of Autogrill Group, the world's leading provider of food & beverage services for people on the move. With sales of around €4.3 billion in 2015, the Group operates in 31 countries and employs over 57,000 people. It manages approximately 4,200 stores in over 1,000 locations worldwide. Visit www.HMSHost.com for more information. We can also be found on Facebook at fb.com/HMSHost and on Twitter at [@HMSHost](https://twitter.com/HMSHost).

About Step Up For Students

Step Up For Students is a nonprofit organization that helps manage the income-based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch program, or those who are homeless or in foster or out-of-home care, may qualify. It provides tuition assistance to the private school of their parents' choice or transportation help to an out-of-district public school. Since 2001, Step Up has awarded more than 570,000 scholarships.

Step Up also helps administer the state-funded Gardiner Scholarship, formerly known as Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts (PLSA), for Florida students with certain special needs. With the Gardiner Scholarship, recipients may use the funds for a variety of approved services including private tutoring, occupational therapy, instructional materials and other services.

For more information, visit www.StepUpForStudents.org.

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