The Sharing TREE
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To Leon County Board of Commissioners

Chairman John Dailey,

We want to thank the Leon County Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to present *The Sharing TREE* this past week. As we are sure you could tell from our presentation, we are very proud of this very unique community resource and are working hard to ensure its continued success. The mission of *The Sharing TREE* is to collect and redistribute reusable materials to educators, artists, and the broader learning community, while simultaneously educating the community on the art of creative reuse. Our vision is to be the regional model for innovative reuse and recycling for creative and educational purposes. In seven short months we have served 1,428 teachers and given away over $120,000 in classroom materials, while giving away more than 30,000 pounds of materials that were destined for the local landfill....and this is just the beginning!

We are asking that Leon County consider becoming a supportive sponsoring partner for this next year. *The Sharing TREE* board, which is representative of a wide variety of stakeholders, including Leon County, is striving to establish full operational funding for next year and is looking to expand our funding partners. This community organization has set very exciting goals for 2011 and we believe that we are only as strong as the community that supports us.

This valuable community resource is already a vital and integral part of sustainability in our local environment. *The Sharing TREE* has become a community center that offers a place for everyone to bring materials that are easily reusable. Reuse is actually more efficient then recycling. With furthered support, *The Sharing TREE* aims to educate the entire community on sustainability and the art of creative reuse through workshops, summer camps and in the classroom. Every year the landfill sees unreasonable discard of materials that still have value to them, whether that value be artistic or educational, *The Sharing TREE* now gives these materials the chance to be transformed. Furthermore, the mission of *The Sharing Tree* is appropriately aligned with that of Leon County's Office of Sustainability, both entities combined would assure the success of future sustainability in our community.

We are excited about the potential of a partnership with Leon County. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist with this funding request. Goodwill has agreed to $20,000 for the following year, and we are asking Leon County to contribute $20,000 also. Additionally, we are requesting funding from the City of Tallahassee and the Leon County Schools. The goal is to eventually be a self-sustaining independent organization so we also appreciate your support in advocacy and education.

With sincere appreciation,

Carly J. Sinandurai, Executive Director

Chris Duggan, Chair