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## **ArborGen Donates Lab and Science Equipment to Teachers' Supply Closet**

*ArborGen partners with local non-profit organization and encourages other area businesses to follow*

**SUMMERVILLE, SC – January 12 2012** – ArborGen, a world leader in the development and commercialization of technologies that improve the productivity of trees for wood, fiber and energy, teamed up with Teachers' Supply Closet (TSC) and donated science and technology supplies. TSC, a nonprofit organization, provides free school supplies to teachers in the tri-county area of South Carolina including basic supplies, art and craft items, books, teacher aids, and now, new and gently-used scientific supplies.

“Lab and science supplies are not the thing we usually receive,” said Deborah Halon, chief operation officer of Teachers' Supply Closet. “Our goal is to help provide every child in the area who has a need for basic school supplies he or she requires to succeed in school, such as paper and pencils. However, another important part of our mission is to try to get the materials that teachers can use in their classrooms. Teachers are very creative. They can use almost anything and turn it into a living laboratory, an art project or a teaching aide. So many people don't realize that teacher's buy school supplies and teaching aids out of their own pockets just to meet the needs of their students. Lab equipment – things like beakers, filters and pipettes – are very expensive, and many of our schools just don't have the funds to supply basic labs. So what ArborGen has provided to the community include things many schools may have struggled to pay for or would not been able to provide.”

*(more)*

The Teachers' Supply Closet now serves 35 schools at the 88 percent poverty index (based on free and reduced lunch program statistics) from Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties. The goal is to expand this program to include schools at the 70 percent poverty index, which would increase services provided to approximately 1,200 teachers and 24,000 students. The 501-3C non-profit is fully dependent upon donations of supplies or cash to buy supplies for everything from tissues to books to scissors. Corporate donations frequently provide quantities of materials that make a difference in the life of children. For example, the "Closet" recently received a supply of gloves and hats that will let teachers ensure that every student in their classroom, many of whom only get one hot meal a day and only while they are in school, have basic things.

"As our scientists were cleaning out storage facilities and readying labs to move into our new corporate headquarters, they realized that we had hundreds of supplies that would be useful to science teachers," said Nancy M. Hood, director of public affairs and sustainability of ArborGen. "One of our colleagues knew of Teacher' Supply Closet and thought it would be a great idea to see if they needed the equipment and supplies."

The "Closet" at ArborGen is stocked with basic school supplies such as pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, rulers, glue, scissors, markers, copy paper, desk accessories, novelty items, tape, binders, pocket folders, and file folders, and now, an assortment of lab supplies.

"The coolest part of gathering up all this material and getting into the 'Closet' was going down to the facility and seeing the section of shelves that would now be designated for math and science," added Hood. "Imagine if every business in the community donated their gently used supplies to help teachers inspire these children just by giving basic things like notebooks, paper, staplers, or in our case, beakers, Petri dishes and outdated but functioning equipment that we would have put into a recycler if we hadn't learned about Teachers Supply Closet. Who knows? Maybe someday we'll have a plant geneticist come out of one of the schools in our town just because they got to play with a Petri dish and a growth box when they were in junior high. Wouldn't that be something?"

*(more)*

**About ArborGen**

ArborGen is revolutionizing productivity in commercial forestry. ArborGen is the largest global supplier of seedling products to the commercial forestry industry, as well as the leading developer of biotech seedlings. Through innovations in both conventional breeding and biotechnology, ArborGen is developing high-value products that significantly improve the productivity of a given acre of land. These products enable ArborGen's customers to grow trees that yield more wood per acre with greater consistency and quality in a shorter period of time. ArborGen's work is improving the sustainability of working forests while helping to meet the world's growing need for wood, fiber and energy. For more information, please visit [www.arborgen.com](http://www.arborgen.com).

**About Teachers' Supply Closet**

Teachers' Supply Closet (TSC) is a nonprofit organization that provides free school supplies to teachers in the tri-county area who work at schools where 90 percent of the students are on the free or reduced lunch program. To supply the store, donations of school supplies, new and gently used office and art supplies, excess inventory, slightly damaged merchandise, and tradeshow products, are accepted and everything is made available to teachers for use in the classroom. For more information, or to find out how you can become involved, [click here](#).