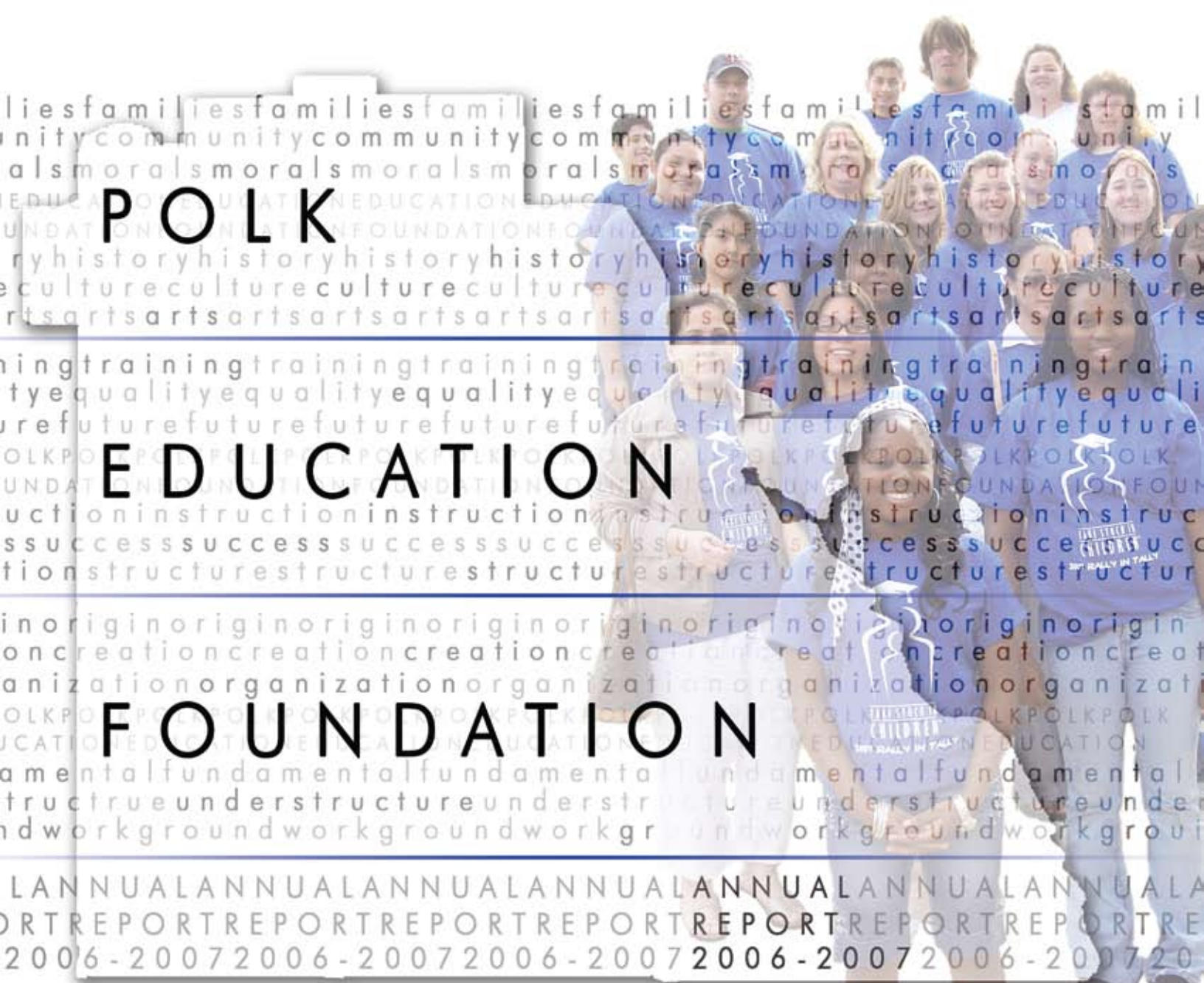


ANNUAL
REPORT
2006-2007



POLK

EDUCATION

FOUNDATION

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Each year the Foundation administers the monies for and helps to seek funding for the following programs:

School Physicals – through an arrangement with local clinics, the PEF is able to get new students time sensitive appointments for school physicals required for entrance into the PCSB system. School principals must nominate a student who qualifies to receive these free physicals, bypassing the County Health clinic where the wait can be weeks or months for an appointment while the student has to sit out of school.

Spelling Bee – finalists from schools all over Polk County participate in this contest.

Poetry Contest – over 2000 students from Polk County Public Schools enter work in this contest. An anthology of student poems is published and unveiled at the Poetry Award Ceremony where winners from each grade are announced.

Polk County Regional Science Fair – over 150 6th-12th grade students participate each year. Finalists then advance to the regional contests and then hopefully to the state and national competition.

Minority Achievement Banquet – recognizes minority students who are graduating with a 3.2 GPA or better.

Hall of Fame Banquet – a banquet is held to honor the 16 valedictorians and salutatorians of each high school. Five community leaders are inducted into the Polk County Hall of Fame at this banquet year as well.

Project Hearth for Homeless Students – the PEF supplies funding to purchase socks, shoes, or other basic clothing items for disadvantaged students. Also, at Christmas time, PCSB employees and local schools donate stuffed bears, books, towel sets and hygiene items to be given to students living in homeless shelters during the holidays through **Project Fill-A-Bucket**. The PEF supplements items as needed.

Gray Robinson Superintendent Scholars – recognizes those graduating seniors who have a 3.5 GPA and a minimum SAT score of 1200 or an ACT of 27. This turns out to be about 150 students each year. The Gray Robinson Law Firm underwrites this event each year.

Academic Competitions at the local, state, and national level are held each year. **E-Team** (Economics Team) is formed on the elementary level and **A-Teams** (Academic Teams) at the middle and high school levels. High school students progress from local to state and national competitions. Scholarships are offered to the winners of the top high school competitions.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Teacher / School-Related Employee of the Year

Annually, public schools across the nation honor individual teachers and educational professionals who exemplify excellence in their schools and classrooms. The PEF assists in promoting and funding this program at the county level, culminating with a banquet where district finalists and winners are celebrated. Sponsorships from local businesses make this event possible.

Tuition Reimbursement Program

Through a grant in conjunction with Progress Energy, Polk County School Board Non-Instructional Employees are provided with tuition reimbursement opportunities as they pursue a degree in education and agree to teach in Polk County Public Schools after they graduate.

Employee Grants

Grants to teachers and counselors to attend workshops that will enhance their job performance and knowledge, thereby benefiting students.

Volunteer of the Year

Each school recognizes their Volunteer of the Year, and then regional winners and one top county volunteer are chosen and recognized at a breakfast.



Polk County's 2007 Teacher of the year, Kristen Wells (right), with Principal Lori Morrison pose in front of Kristen's new 2007 Mustang, provided by PEF Business Partner MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Most individuals and/or businesses would love to help with the overwhelming tasks the Foundation undertakes. Here are some of the ways you can help. For further information about the PEF's programs and support opportunities, contact us at:

Polk Education Foundation

1530 Shumate Drive
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-0434

Donate: *Programs, Events, Scholarships*

- Cash - Unrestricted funds are always needed for day-to-day operations and for support of our main focus areas
- Pledge - A pledged gift offers donors an opportunity to support the Foundation by making payments every month, quarter or year(s)
- Memorial or Honor gifts - Make a gift in memory or in honor of an individual or a group
- PCSB Employee Payroll Deduction - call the PEF office for.....

Volunteer: *AmeriCorps Polk Reads or Take Stock In Children*

- As an event volunteer -serve on an event planning committee and help with various tasks associated with hosting events or help in the office with mail outs
- As an office volunteer- assist with various tasks and projects as needed
- A reading tutor for K-3 grade students.
- As a TSIC Mentor - Serve one hour per week mentoring a scholarship student in grades 7-12

Support through Sponsorship:

- Scholarships - any individual, corporation or civic organization may contribute to five types of scholarship programs at the Foundation
- Grants - grants for teachers, schools and special projects are funded through the generosity of individuals, corporations and civic groups
- Sponsor events - the Foundation hosts a dozen events annually and relies on the generosity of the community for support
- Foundation programs- AmeriCorps Polk Reads, Take Stock in Children, Teacher to Teacher/School to School Connection, CitiGroup Teacher Mentor Teams, Fill-A-Bucket and more



\$20 from the purchase of each License for Learning auto tag purchased in Polk County is sent directly to the Polk Education Foundation to fund the programs we administer and support. Show your support of the students and teachers in our county and the Polk Education Foundation by proudly displaying your License for Learning tag!

Purchase online at www.license4learning.com

