

2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING **20** Years!!
OF HELPING POLK STUDENTS



The Polk Education Foundation celebrated our 20th Anniversary this year; what an exciting milestone! Over the last two decades more than \$27,000,000 has been raised to support the programs and services we provide to the teachers and students of Polk County. What started as an organization to provide scholarships for graduating seniors has grown to so much more. We manage three in-house programs in addition to a very large scholarship program for graduating seniors. Some of the other services we provide are supporting schools by offering grants, hosting the Teacher / School Based Employee of the Year Banquet, supporting Project Hearth for homeless students, hosting the Superintendent's Partnership Award program, and sponsoring several student recognition programs. We also honor as many individual requests for help on the school and classroom level as we can. This year alone we provided almost \$200,000 in matching funds to Polk County Schools, finished a two year program that drove \$91,000 to schools for library materials and awarded

over \$500,000 in scholarships – quite a way to celebrate our anniversary!

Staff at the Foundation often talk about the rewarding work we do, and making that work possible is our generous community. Most of the programs and services we provide are made possible by generous sponsors from our community. So in this year of celebration, we can't truly celebrate without recognizing those whose time, effort and money have made it all possible, the generous supporters we have in Polk County. Without those supporters and the educators and staff who help make it all come together, our work would not be as fruitful and this milestone year would not have been as successful. Thank you!

Susan Copeland, M.B.A.

Susan Copeland
Executive Director, Polk Education Foundation



AT&T is proud to support the Polk County School District through a corporate-community partnership that places important information for parents in one convenient location in the AT&T Real Yellow Pages. Everything from immunization requirements to bus transportation and enrollment information—not to mention school phone numbers—can be found in AT&T's Community Information Pages. The AT&T Real Yellow Pages and Polk County Schools—Making a *real* difference in our community.



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2007-2008 PEF Expenditures: \$2.16 million



Giving is easier than ever!

Visit us online at www.polkeeducationfoundation.org and click "How You Can Help" to make a contribution and help meet the educational needs in our communities.

Progress Energy once again provided **\$31,000** to the PEF to sponsor math and science FCAT enhancement grants to all the schools in their service area. Pictured is Jerry Miller, Community Relations Manager for Progress Energy, as he presents a check to Susan Copeland, Executive Director of the Foundation. Grant applications are sent to Progress Energy service area schools in September. This donation represents over **\$90,000** that Progress Energy has donated for this project in recent years; all in addition to numerous other areas they support in public school education.



Congratulations to the following Polk County Schools on receiving \$545.00 grants from Washington Mutual.

Inwood Elementary
Polk Avenue Elementary
Eagle Lake Elementary
Eastside Elementary
Sleepy Hill Middle
Auburndale Central Elementary
Wendell Watson Elementary
Blake Academy

Washington Mutual also provided **\$15,000** in sponsorship

for Adapter Grants in the Teacher to Teacher / School to School Connection helping 60+ teachers implement innovative teaching programs into their classrooms. Pictured making a School Board presentation is Lo Ann Cai from Washington Mutual with School Board members Lori Cunningham and Hazel Sellers as Susan Copeland, PEF Director, looks on.



A special thanks to everyone who donated to Project Fill-A-Bucket for homeless students in Polk County schools. The Hearth Office was able to fill 464 buckets, for a total of more than **\$18,500** worth of toiletries, bath towels, gifts, and more!



The **Citigroup** Mentoring Program, whose motto is "Building Stronger Teachers through Collaboration and Mentoring", is designed to pair Polk County teachers, both veterans and beginners, in order to enhance and support classroom instruction and teacher retention. The 2007-08 program worked with teachers from Caldwell Elementary, who developed student-based learning projects and received much needed grant money to purchase classroom materials.

THE 2008 TEACHER AND SCHOOL RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR BANQUET

was held on February 7, 2008 at the Lakeland Center. Over 900 guests were in attendance to see Danny Whittenton, a history teacher from Lakeland's Kathleen High School become Polk's Teacher of the Year, and Acela Lumpuy, a custodian at Lakeland's Southwest Middle become the 2008 School-Related Employee of the Year. Teachers and school-related employees were nominated by their individual schools. Lumpuy received **\$2,000** from **MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union** and a **ring** from **Herff Jones**. Along with a ring and **\$1,000** from **Herff Jones**, Whittenton also received a **2008 Toyota Prius** from the event's premiere sponsor, **MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union**.



The Polk Education Foundation would like to thank the **George Jenkins Fund within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland** and the **City of Lakeland** for each donating **\$30,000** towards Project Succeed. With the help of these donations the PEF will implement this new program that will aide at-risk high-school students at Lakeland and Kathleen High Schools in their quest to attend college.

The following schools applied for and received a first and/or second round Matching Grant for the 2007-2008 school year. Grant funds were provided by the **Consortium of Florida Education Foundations**, through the **Florida Legislature, Clear Springs** and **Wachovia Bank. \$166,652** was provided to schools through this program. To receive a matching grant, each school raised up to **\$5,000** that was then matched by the PEF. These grants were used to improve academic achievement for low-performing students and/or promote and increase literacy.

First Round

Alta Vista Elementary	\$500.00
Bartow High School	\$1,000.00
Blake Academy	\$1,000.00
Boone Middle School	\$3,332.00
Crystal Lake Middle School	\$3,332.00
Dixieland Elementary	\$250.00
Eastside Elementary	\$1,000.00
Frostproof Elementary	\$1,000.00
Garner Elementary School	\$3,332.00
George Jenkins High School	\$300.00
Haines City High School	\$1,000.00
Highlands Grove Elementary	\$1,000.00
Hillcrest Elementary	\$1,000.00
Janie Howard Wilson Elementary	\$3,332.00
Kathleen Middle School	\$3,332.00
McLaughlin Middle School	\$3,332.00
Our Children's Academy	\$1,000.00
Pinewood Elementary	\$1,000.00
Polk City Elementary	\$1,000.00
Purcell Elementary	\$500.00
R. Bruce Wagner Elementary	\$1,000.00
Stambaugh Middle School	\$1,000.00
Union Academy	\$1,000.00

Second Round

Bartow Elementary Academy	\$5,000.00
Bartow High School	\$4,000.00
Crystal Lake Middle	\$2,100.00
Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elem.	\$2,500.00
Eastside Elementary	\$1,000.00
Frostproof Elementary	\$4,000.00
Ft. Meade Middle / Senior	\$5,000.00
George Jenkins High	\$1,000.00
Haines City High School	\$4,000.00
Haines City High School	\$748.46
Highlands Grove Elementary	\$4,000.00
Janie Howard Wilson Elem	\$3,334.00
Our Childrens Academy	\$4,000.00
Pinewood Elementary	\$800.00
Roosevelt Academy	\$1,000.00
Roosevelt Academy	\$450.00
Union Academy	\$4,000.00

LIBRARY GRANTS

Selected schools were granted **\$1,100** library grants to enhance their selection of books or other materials to encourage young readers. From 2006—2008, **\$90,100** in library grants has been awarded to Polk County schools by the Polk Education Foundation.

Bartow Middle
Berkley Elementary
Caldwell Elementary
Chain of Lakes Elementary
Denison Middle
Discovery Academy
Elbert Elementary
Frostproof Middle/Senior
Garner Elementary
Hillcrest Elementary
Janie Howard Wilson Elementary
Lake Wales High
Lena Vista Elementary
McLaughlin Middle
Mulberry Middle
Polk Avenue Elementary
Purcell Elementary
Stambaugh Middle
Stephens Elementary

Susan Copeland presents Stanley Phelps, President of **Clear Springs**, with a certificate of appreciation for Clear Springs **\$100,000** donation to the Foundation. This donation was used to provide matching grants to schools throughout the county and to purchase scholarships for our Take Stock in Children program. 100% of the Clear Springs donation was able to be matched!



The Polk Education Foundation would like to thank all of our scholarship donors for their continued generosity each year. In the 2007-08 school year the PEF awarded 358 scholarships to Polk County graduating seniors totaling over **\$577,000** – all thanks to the generosity of sponsors. Without this additional financial help, many students would not be able to attain their dream of going to college. If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship in the name of your business or in memory of a loved one, please contact Susan Copeland, Foundation Director at 534-0434. Award options are endless, but the outcome will always be the same – students receive help to achieve their college dreams!



Steven Schuster, store manager of the new Bartow **Office Depot**, is shown



presenting a **\$500** check to Susan Copeland, Executive Director, that was used for supplies at Office Depot. Office Depot also donated **25 backpacks** filled with school supplies. **Staples** was a similar contributor to the Foundation this year. When their new store opened in Davenport, they selected the PEF to receive a **\$1,000** gift. Thank you Office Depot and Staples for your support.

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN - INFORMATION AND DATA

Take Stock in Children is dedicated to providing scholarships, mentors and hope to Florida's underprivileged youth. Take Stock in Children offers a comprehensive plan of success for selected students who sign a contract to stay in school, maintain good grades, and meet with a mentor once a week. In turn Take Stock in Children provides each student with a tuition scholarship to attend college or vocational school. The Polk Education Foundation administers this program in conjunction with the **Florida Prepaid Foundation**.

In addition to tuition and mentoring, students receive career and educational counseling. Students are monitored by a full time advocate and enrichment events are held yearly.

Many of the nation's leading businesses and foundations have recognized Take Stock in Children as one of the solutions to the problems of high crime rates, high dropout rates, poverty and academic failure. Because of this, leading corporate, individual and foundation sponsors have invested in Take Stock in Children and are becoming a part of the solution.

» Program served **126 students in 2007-08**

» Golf tournaments raised **\$85,000** in proceeds

» Foundation purchased **37 new scholarships**

» Current value of 2008 graduating class scholarships **\$284,893.44**



» Graduates Statewide (from 1995 to date) **15,000**, with **\$97,000,000** in scholarships awarded.

» Retention/Graduation Rate for Polk County **97%** Statewide 89%



TSIC CLASS OF 2008 STATISTICS

Graduating class size 40.

8 students in the top 10% of their class.

4 in the top 3% of their class.

3 graduating as salutatorians.



2007-2008 AMERICORPS POLK READS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Polk Reads provides one-on-one tutoring for kindergarten through third grade students reading below grade level in selected Polk schools. This program is funded by federal grants and local dollars and is administered by the Polk Education Foundation.

Teachers note that students participating in this program often displayed increased self esteem and improve grades in other subject areas.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED IN 07-08

605 Kindergarten through 3rd grade students

VERIZON, supporter of literacy in Polk County, donated **\$15,000** to help support AmeriCorps Polk Reads, the PEF's reading tutoring program at selected elementary sites around our county.

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY, another supporter of the PEF, made a donation of **\$15,000** to Polk Reads. Both donations were matched by funds received through legislative funding to help young readers become more successful. Thank you Verizon and State Farm!

AWARDS RECEIVED BY PROGRAM

» **Volunteer Florida & The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service**

» **"Everybody Can Serve" Award** - "For their dedication and commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs"

» **"The Gold Standard" Award** - "In recognition of model leadership and program management leading to high AmeriCorps Member retention"

TEACHER TO TEACHER CONNECTION GRANTS:

In an effort to see best practices shared between teachers across Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties, the Polk Education Foundation established the Teacher to Teacher Connection Grant based on the IMPACT II Model from New York City. The purpose of this program is to recognize and reward teachers for their innovative teaching practices, then help to replicate those programs in classrooms around the county by giving teachers a venue in which to network. Each year hundreds of teachers visit the IDEA Expo where Developers set up booths in order to share best practices he/she has developed for his/her students. Teachers who visit the expo can become adapters, who implement a program in his/her classroom and receive \$200 towards program classroom materials.

The following teachers were recognized as 2007 Developers and received \$600, with \$400 as a personal gift and \$200 to be used for classroom materials. More than \$12,600 went back into classrooms in Polk, Hardee & Highlands counties through this program.

Kay Teehan, Bartow Middle School
Jennifer Canady, Southwest Middle School
Sharon Ussery, Zolfo Springs Elementary
Jessica Fredricks, Bethune Academy
Kristen Chaves, Bartow Middle School
Lois Langston, Bartow Elementary Academy
Maribeth Hartmann, Valleyview Elementary
Beth Hines, Anna Woodbury Elementary
McKelle Dowers, Ridgeview Global Studies Academy
Michaela Walker, Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary
Caroline Kaiser, Erica Gotshall & Janice Katz, Davenport School of the Arts
Jessica Miller, Padgett Elementary
Carolyn Presnell & Diane Conley, Fort Meade Middle-Senior High
Stefanie A. Brokas, Doris Sanders Learning Center
Shanna R. Fox, Daniel Jenkins Academy
Deb Gornoski, Bartow Middle School
Alexis Andruszkiewicz, Dixieland Elementary
Nicole McClain, Janie Howard Wilson Elementary
Laura Sherley, Lake Country Elementary
Cynthia Racette, Valleyview Elementary
Robbie Marsh, Sandhill Elementary

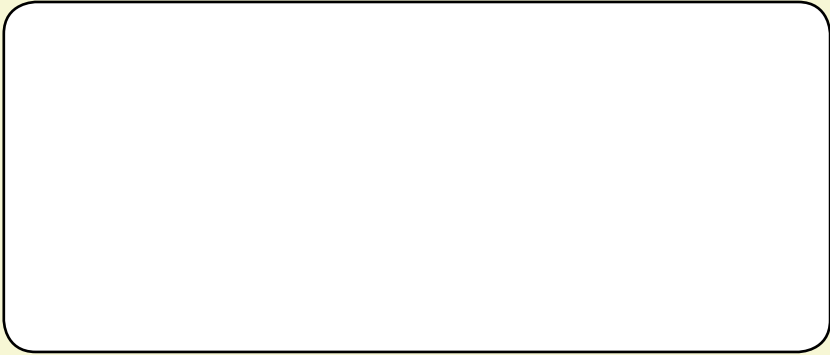
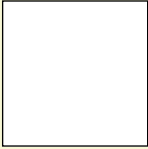


SCHOOL TO SCHOOL CONNECTION GRANTS:

Started as an expansion of the Teacher to Teacher Connection, this program looks for innovative programs used school-wide then follows the same program guidelines to recognize and reward Developers. The following 2007 School to School Developers received \$1,000, with \$800 going towards school materials and \$200 as a personal gift for a total of \$9,000 going back into the schools of Polk, Hardee & Highlands counties.

Becki Martin & Shannon Moats	NE Roberts Elementary
Doretha Tillman	Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred
Kay Teehan & Jeannie McCarthy	Bartow Middle School
Kathy Robinson	Lake Country Elementary
Deloris O'Hern, Amy Caraway-Harris, Donna Borders & Lisa Comparato	Janie Howard Wilson Elementary
Shiryl McAdams	Bartow Elementary Academy
Perry Blocker & Linda Travers	Westwood Middle
Nicole Taylor	Caldwell Elementary
Jessica Fredricks & Deborah Congdon	Bethune Academy





ORDER ONLINE TODAY!



\$25,000
WAS RAISED THROUGH
THE PURCHASE OF THESE
TAGS IN POLK COUNTY.

IN THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR, NEARLY



\$20 FROM THIS TAG PURCHASE IS DESIGNATED FOR THE PEFI