

In this short monthly e-newsletter, the Polk Education Foundation would like to share with you things we were able to do over the last two months to support the teachers and students of Polk County, and to also make you aware of any upcoming opportunities. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested learning more about the Polk Education Foundation.

NEWS
FROM THE
PEF

The Polk Education Foundation would like to welcome new Board Members Margaret Lofton, of the Polk County School Board, John Burns, of State Farm Insurance Companies, and Jan Mercer-Hyman, Bright House Networks.

Thanks to generous donations from local businesses and individuals, the Hearth Program's Project Fill-a-Bucket was again a success. The Project raised \$17,920 in donations of cash and supplies for Polk County's homeless students. 512 students received much needed personal hygiene items, books, toys and winter coats.

Thanks to all who gave so generously to this wonderful project!



The PEF has received a \$250 donation from the Leadership Lakeland Alumni Association on behalf of **Hollis Hooks**, PEF Board member. Mr. Hooks received the 2008 Jere Annis Award from the LLAA and donated a portion of the award to the Foundation, as well as several other local charities.

Thank you Mr. Hooks for your generosity!



**PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES**

Thank you to **Publix Super Market Charities** for their recent donation of \$12,000 for the following Polk Education Foundation programs: Teacher to Teacher/School to School Connection Program, the Hearth Program, Teacher/School-Related Employee of the Year Banquet and the Hall of Fame event.

The Polk Education Foundation would like to thank school board member **Tim Harris** for his recent donation to the general fund. Mr. Harris donated his raise as a school board member, and then generously multiplied that amount by ten for a total of **\$1,310!**

PEF Scholarships offered

The 2009 online scholarship application closed on February 19th. High school seniors graduating from public high schools were eligible to apply for these awards. Thank you to our newest scholarship sponsors:

- State Rep. John Wood, Dist. 65
- The Latt Maxcy Foundation
- The Junior Woman's Club of Lakeland
- Lakeland High School Class of 1977
- Bartow High School FEA in the name of Denise Smith

Anyone wishing to start a scholarship with the PEF for the 2009–10 school year should contact the PEF office at 534-0434. Forms and donation instructions are available by mail or fax. All scholarship offerings for 2009-10 will be included in an online application in January 2010.

Want to know more about the PEF and it's programs?
Call today for your copy of the Polk Education Foundation Annual Report or view it online at www.polkeducationfoundation.org.

Good news for schools!

The PEF has been able to provide two programs this year that help students start school. The first is the **Free Physical Program**. All Polk County public schools can apply. Students who meet the following criteria are eligible:

- Be on free/reduced meal plan or have no insurance
- Have contacted the County Health department and been unable to obtain a physical in a timely manner

The Free Physical form is available at www.polkeducationfoundation.org. Schools may print, complete and fax the form to the PEF. Contact the PEF for a list of participating clinics.

The second program is the **Uniform Grant Program**, providing funding to needy students, providing funds to elementary and middle schools to purchase uniforms. The application form is available for schools on the PEF website.

2008-09 Matching Grant Program Congratulations to the following schools on applying for and receiving a matching grant this year. Grant funds were provided by the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, through the Florida legislature and the Polk Education Foundation. A total of \$43,000 was provided to 26 schools through this program. To receive a matching grant, each school raised an amount that was then matched by the PEF. These grants are used to improve academic achievement for low-performing students and/or promote and increase literacy.

Bartow High School

Berkley Charter School

Boone Middle School

Chain of Lakes Elementary

Cleveland Court Elementary

Eastside Elementary

Frostproof Middle-Senior High School

Chain of Lakes Elementary

Highlands Grove Elementary

Hillcrest Elementary

Inwood Elementary

Janie Howard Wilson Elementary

Kathleen Elementary

Lake Alfred Elementary

Lena Vista Elementary

Mulberry Middle School

Our Children's Academy

Philip O'Brien Elementary

Pinewood Elementary

Polk City Elementary

Roosevelt Academy

Stambaugh Middle School

Stephens Elementary

Union Academy

Wendell Watson Elementary

Lake Gibson High School

The PEF is working diligently to save the **School District Matching Grant Program** sponsored by the State Legislature. Each county in Florida is allocated funds to use as a match to solicit donors in certain areas. In recent years, the PEF has worked with programs to improve literacy and help low-achieving students. Please help us by contacting your local legislators and telling them how important this program is to Polk County.

PROGRAMS OF THE POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN (TSIC):



Golf!

They are coming!
The 2009 Take Stock in Children
Scholarship Scrambles

Monday, April 20th Hosted by Citrus Center Kiwanis at
Eaglebrooke Golf Club, Lakeland

Friday, April 24th Hosted by MM Parrish Construction at
The Lake Wales Country Club

What makes these tournaments different from others?

- ◆ Sponsors get recognition at both tournaments for one sponsorship price.
- ◆ All scholarship funds raised are matched dollar for dollar by the Florida Prepaid Foundation.

Contact Susan Fenich for details:
863-519-8077

New Take Stock in Children Education and Career/Technical Scholarship recipients

Alberta Palma
Savannah Grant
Dominique Harris
Lieter Hernandez
Rachelle Davenport

Ridge/Teen Parent
Tenoroc High School
Ridge/Teen Parent
Tenoroc High School
Lake Wales High School

Congratulations



Pictured are new recipients:
Alberta Palma, Rachelle Davenport
and Dominique Harris

ANNOUNCING THE 5TH ANNUAL SCHOLAR DOLLAR AUCTION

Friday, May 15th 6:30 pm
Lake Region High School
Cafeteria & Auditorium

TSIC students bid on gift baskets with Scholar Dollars (mock money) earned throughout the school year for various accomplishments such as attendance, grades and behavior.

The program is currently seeking donations for the gift baskets. Any business or individual wishing to donate gift cards, cash, or teen-related items, as well as gift containers to package items, is asked to call Teresa Choquette at 863-519-8076 for further details.

2009 Teacher to Teacher Adapter Grant Recipients

The 2009 Adapter Grant Reception held by the Teacher to Teacher/School to School Connection Program, in conjunction with the Polk Education Foundation, Washington Mutual & local business sponsors was held on January 23, 2009.

This year, over 60 teachers were awarded Adapter Grants of up to \$800 for a classroom or school-wide program to be implemented based on a program highlighted at the 2008 IDEA Expo. These educators will be purchasing classroom materials to offset the cost of beginning an innovative program that they saw featured at the 2008 Expo. These teachers exemplify the good works being produced in Polk, Hardee and Highlands County school districts. To date, the Teacher to Teacher Connection has awarded over 750 grants worth more than \$265,000 and the School to School Connection has awarded 16 grants worth \$16,000, benefiting numerous teachers and countless students.

The following teachers were honored as grant recipients:

Martie Brooker	Avon Elementary	Kathryn Kennedy	Ridgeview Global Studies
Donya Dennard	Daniel Jenkins Academy	Tanya Koehler	Cracker Trail Elementary
Joan Jones	Jewett Academy	Brittany Kuhn	Inwood Elementary
Jessica Palomaki	Dundee Elementary	Susan K. Maddalon	Sandhill Elementary
Jennifer Clark-Chrow	Lake Marion Creek Elem	Melissa Massey	Bowling Green Elementary
Simone Fidy	McKeel Elementary	Barbara Moody	Inwood Elementary
Laura Mastrangelo	Snively Elementary	Brittanie Moore	Inwood Elementary
Jill Amick	R. Bruce Wagner Elem	Gloria Neel	North Wauchula Elementary
Carrie Austin	Wahneta Elementary	Angela Olson	Boone Middle School
Kimberley Bard	Bartow Elementary Academy	Tracy Ormsby	BH Griffin Elementary
Marilyn K. Bauer	Garden Grove Elementary	Christine Raiche	Sleepy Hill Elementary
Jennifer Blanton	Eagle Lake Elementary	Barbara Raymond	Garner Elementary
Rebecca Bullard	Bartow Elementary Academy	Lois Reszetucha	Dundee Elementary
Allison Carter	Highlands Grove Elementary	Tammy Rhoden	BH Griffin Elementary
Jenny Clark	Zolfo Springs Elementary	Suzanne T. Robinson	Sandhill Elementary
Robin Collins	Jesse Keen Elementary	Maite L. Rodriguez-Paz	Ridgeview Global Studies
Kathi Decker	Eagle Lake Elementary	Lana Roe	Hillcrest Elementary
Shanna Fox	Daniel Jenkins Academy	Robin Rogers	Eagle Lake Elementary
Dru Gainey	Dundee Elementary	Alison Sammon	Snively Elementary
Molly Garrett	Janie Howard Wilson Elem	Jennifer Shackelford	North Wauchula Elementary
Patricia Glasscock	Dundee Elementary	Jennifer Smith	Eastside Elementary
Jennifer Gleaton	Garden Grove Elementary	Rhonda D. Stuever	Memorial Elementary
Amy Glenn	Berkley Accelerated Middle	Marlene Torres	Jesse Keen Elementary
Lea Gomez	Sandhill Elementary	Jaime Turner	Garner Elementary
Nicole Green	Inwood Elementary	Sharon Ussery	Zolfo Springs Elementary
Cara Holland	Memorial Elementary	Selena Ann Valentin	Memorial Elementary
Gail Hulsey	Ben Hill Griffin Elementary	Sara Van Hook	Bartow Elementary Academy
Penny Humphrey	Inwood Elementary	Robin Wingo	Purcell Elementary
Lori Irwin	Eagle Lake Elementary	Joanna Zammito	Frostproof Elementary



Pictured—Robin Wingo, grant recipient from Purcell Elementary with Dick Mullenax, School Board Member

Want to earn \$\$\$ for your classroom?

2009 Developer Grant Applications Due Soon!

Visit www.polkeducationfoundation.org/t2t to download a 2009 Teacher to Teacher or School to School Developer Grant Application. Apply with any innovative program for grades PreK-8th grade and you could receive up to \$1,000 towards classroom materials and as a personal gift! **But Hurry! Deadline is March 13, 2009.**

AMERICORPS POLK READS:



Since the start of the program in September, **AmeriCorps Polk Reads members** have tutored over 500 kindergarten through third grade students who were reading below grade level. Teachers and administrators at the ten host school sites are excited to see extraordinary progress made by these students as a result of their one-on-one tutoring sessions.

Pictured—AmeriCorps member, Brenda Johnson with Blake Academy student.



As part of their community service requirement, AmeriCorps members were Santa's Elves at the Annual Santa's Workshop hosted by Family Fundamentals in December. Children were treated to holiday treats, activities and a visit with Santa.



On January 19th as part of the 2009 Martin Luther Day National Day of Service members volunteered at the Spring Haven Assisted Living Facility in Winter Haven. Residents were treated to games, crafts and refreshments. AmeriCorps Polk Reads members hosted the activities for this fun filled event.



Martin Luther King Day National Day of Service—AmeriCorps members and the residents of Spring Haven Assisted Living Facility in Winter Haven enjoy fun and games.

OFFERS FOR PCSB EMPLOYEES:

For all current offers to all PCSB employees, please visit the STAFF page of the PCSB website

www.polk-fl.net

Offers are also listed on the weekly staff email sent from Dr. Tonjes' office to PCSB employees each Friday.

Current offers:

- Aska Lodge Bed and Breakfast ...Expires 12/31/09
- Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure....FREE!
- Ron White Behavioral Problems Tour The Lakeland Center
- Cirque du Soleil Saltimbanco The Lakeland Center
- Sam's Club...offered once a year in the spring. Offer information will be posted on the District website when available.

POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION STAFF:

Susan Copeland, Executive Director, 863-534-0434
Vicki Ginda, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, 863-519-8638
Kristen Gartrell, AmeriCorps Program Assistant, 863-519-8638
Miranda Collins, TTC Program Coordinator, 863-534-0803

Susan Fenich, TSIC Program Coordinator, 863-519-8077
Teresa Choquette, TSIC Student Advocate, 863-519-8076
Shirley Brosie, Accounting Specialist, 863-534-5073
Lou Ann Antonelli, Admin. Assistant, 863-534-0519