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

**Thank you Bank of America**

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Inc. recently donated \$4,000 to the Polk Education Foundation. The Teacher to Teacher Connection grant program and Take Stock in Children each received \$2,000 for programmatic expenses. Bank of America is a long time supporter of the PEF and we appreciate their sponsorship!



Susan Copeland, PEF Executive Director and Blinda Pullen, Division Manager - Property & Casualty for Bank of America.

**Staff Offers**

[www.polk-fl.net](http://www.polk-fl.net)  
 Keyword: Offers

pef POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FL

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**Staff Offers**

PCSB employees should be sure to visit the PCSB Staff page for discount and incentive offers from local businesses. The PEF offers this section of the website as a service to employees and local businesses alike. Employees are able to take advantage of offers designed especially for them, and local businesses have the opportunity to share their offer information with the PCSB workforce for a nominal monthly charge. For an application to apply to post an offer, contact 863-534-0434.

**Physicals and School Uniforms Grants**

Through a \$500 grant from Heartland for Children and funds from the Polk Education Foundation, grants for school physicals and school uniforms are being offered to students in need. Schools should go to the left side of the PEF website homepage ([www.polkeeducationfoundation.org](http://www.polkeeducationfoundation.org)) to find the application forms with all details and directions.

**Thank you Mr. Edison**

The PEF would like to thank Mr. Edison of Edison Financial Group for allowing us to share his booth and use his public speaking slot at the ASBA (Association of School Based Administrators) conference. Susan Copeland, PEF Executive Director, was able to display information about the PEF at the conference and be on hand to talk with administrators thanks to Mr. Edison. Mr. Edison has also donated items to be used as give aways at our upcoming Teacher to Teacher Connection Idea Expo.

**Kid's Tag Art**



The Polk Education Foundation is a sponsor of the Kid's Tag Art program, administered by the Polk County Tax Collector's Office. All Polk County fifth graders participate in this program by designing their own license plates. For a small fee, their work can actually be put on a car vanity tag. Proceeds from the sale of these tags go to support Arts Education in Polk County Schools.

## Thank you Hooter's Foundation

\$560 was recently raised at the grand re-opening of Hooter's in north Lakeland to purchase school supplies. Hooter's invited the PEF to be their "charity of choice" at this exciting event, with the donations gathered at the door returning to the Polk Education Foundation.

Susan Copeland, PEF Executive Director showing off the donation check and PEF marquee sign with two Hooter's employees.



## Congratulations Althea Hagans!

The Horace Mann Company recently surprised PCSB employee Althea Hagans with a check presentation in the Superintendent's Office. Her \$250 prize was given because she was the winner in one of the cash prize drawings they were holding. As part of this contest, employees were able to designate an educational non-profit who would also receive the same cash prize if their name was drawn, and Ms. Hagans nominated the PEF! Thank you to the Horace Mann Company for this opportunity and Ms. Hagans for her generosity towards the PEF. We were all winners!



Susan Copeland, PEF Executive Director, Gregory Badgerow, Horace Mann, and Althea Hagans as they received their checks.

Althea Hagans is pictured with Superintendent Dr. Gail McKinzie as they hold the celebratory cake provided by Horace Mann in honor of the occasion.



## Superintendent's Partnership Awards

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Polk Education Foundation partnered with the PCSB Community Relations and Workforce Education departments to host the annual Superintendent's Partnership Awards. Each school in the county as well as any district office division was invited to nominate a partner they felt had made an outstanding contribution of time, talent, money or a combination of all, to the success of their site last school year. 52 partners were honored at this program with finalists and a top winner in the elementary, secondary and district office being named. Our thanks to PSC in Winter Haven for allowing us to use their Fine Arts Auditorium and to all the schools and divisions who participated. Your desire to recognize those who help you succeed is the driving force behind this program. Our congratulations to the finalists and winners:

### Elementary Division

Elementary Partner of the Year: Clear Springs  
CEMEX  
First Presbyterian Church of Haines City



Superintendent Dr. Gail McKinzie with the District Office category winners from United Way, Terry Worthington and Penny Borgia. School Board member Lori Cunningham stands at right.

## Secondary Division

Secondary Partner of the Year: Lakeland Electric  
Lake Wales Arts Council  
College Board

## District Office Division

District Office Partner of the Year: United Way of Central Florida  
Polk County Tax Collector's Office  
Bright House Networks



All of the finalists and winners pictured with the Superintendent and other school board members.

Also recognized that morning were the Commissioner of Education's Business Recognition Award winners. Two organizations from Polk County are nominated each year for this award, usually given in person by the Commissioner of Education. Due to budget cuts this year, that program was cancelled, but we always take the opportunity to recognize these winners locally at this program. Our congratulations to:

## Commissioner of Education's Business Recognition Award

TECO Energy  
Citrus Center Kiwanis Club



Superintendent Dr. Gail McKinzie with Kathryn Koch-O'Malley and Eric Hines of the Citrus Center Kiwanis Club



Cindy Price of TECO as she receives her award from Dr. McKinzie

## Thank you Belk, CFEF and Amscot!

In cooperation with the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF), Belk Department Stores held a Charity Day to raise money to support local education foundations. The Polk Education Foundation received \$4,300 through this program to help support the Teacher of the Year program and the Teacher to Teacher Connection. Thank you CFEF and Belk!

# Belk

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Education Foundations from around Florida gathered to receive their grant checks from Belk.



Another partnership through the CFEF is one with Amscot Financial. Company wide, Amscot raised almost \$90,000 to support education in Florida! In their "Just A Dollar" drive Amscot employees asked customers to donate a dollar at their point of sale. Funds raised locally were then matched by Am-scot's corporate office to total a \$6,800 donation in Polk County!

## PROGRAMS OF THE POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

### TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN (TSIC):



*We have a new look and a new president. The new state president of Take Stock in Children is Maria Sastre. We welcome her and look forward to working with her in the future. Many changes have already been made statewide and we expect to see more.*

Scholarship Opportunities online at [www.polkeducationfoundation.org/tsic](http://www.polkeducationfoundation.org/tsic) To see the new scholarship applications and criteria for qualifications for four different scholarships currently being offered see our website.

- McDonalds—Available for 10th graders
- Chair Scholars—For physically challenged students
- Polk Works—Welfare to work applications
- Eighth grade scholarships—for the Class of 2014

If you know of anyone who would might qualify for any of these scholarships, please direct them to our website.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Bright House Networks for \$8,637 to purchase Florida Prepaid scholarships for future Take Stock students.



**ABWA (American Business Women's Association) For donating school supplies to our students.**



Genri Navarro, former Take Stock in Children graduate, now a member of AmeriCorps Polk Reads, stuffs backpacks for needy children with donated school supplies from ABWA.



Take Stock in Children staff members, Susan Fenich and Teresa Choquette (far right) pose with State Farm employees from the Fire Team who collected five paper boxes full of school supplies to help children return to school with all the necessities.

**State Farm fire team employees for working together to donate school supplies to Take Stock in Children**



**TEACHER TO TEACHER / SCHOOL TO SCHOOL CONNECTION (TTC/SSC):**

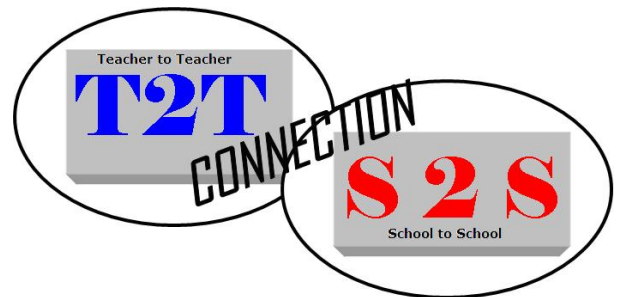
The annual Developer Recognition Reception was held on September 29, 2009 at the Lake Wales Art Center to recognize teachers from Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties who won classroom grants based on innovative programs implemented during the 2008-2009 school year.

Over 70 people attended the Reception, including Polk County principals and administration, Hardee/Highlands school based administration and business sponsors. The teachers received a published webpage highlighting their program as well as a monetary award of up to \$1,000.

Developer awards mark the beginning of the new Teacher to Teacher/School to School (T2T/S2S) Connection Cycle. November 17<sup>th</sup> will bring the 2009 IDEA Expo which will host approximately 60 former developers along with this year's winners. Teachers from all three counties are invited to attend the event and then apply to adapt one of the ideas found there. Adapter awards will provide \$200.00 in classroom and \$800.00 in school project money to adapt already developed programs into classroom projects.



Pictured to the left is David Ullman, Secretary/Treasurer of the PEF with Joy Conley, School to School Developer and Dr. Bruce Tonjes, Associate Superintendent of Schools



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## AMERICORPS POLK READS:

### AmeriCorps Polk Reads Members Graduate from Service Program

30 members “graduated” from AmeriCorps after fulfilling one year of service. At the end of each service year, members who have met the service hour requirements receive an education award worth \$4,725.00 for full time members and \$2362.50 for half time members.

Congratulations to: Michelle Bell, Adele Bell, Ashley Borders, Kathy Clemens, Natalie Day, Roberta Dionne, Holly Finley, Janelle Giroux, Jolene Harthun, Petra Hils, Constance Jimenez, Brenda Johnson, Katie Kearns, Amanda Lake, Lindsay McConnell, Mary Ellen McDonald, Genrri Navarro, Jason Parsley, Ebony Pelemon, Amber Pollock, Jane Renner, Felicia Riedeman, Karen Smith-Addison, Christian Soriano, Linda Stephens, Bertie Ticknor, Amy Lynn Tucker, David Williams, Kristy Williams, Sidney Williams.

Verizon Reads, Inc. donated \$8078.52 to the Polk Education Foundation for the support of the AmeriCorps Polk Reads reading tutoring program

The program also received the Volunteer Florida’s “National Service Includes Everyone” Award in recognition of exemplary inclusion of persons with disabilities in AmeriCorps.



Pictured from left to right: **Susan Copeland**, Executive Director of the Polk Education, **Natalie Day**, graduating AmeriCorps Member, **Bill Reid**, of Verizon, a sponsor of AmeriCorps Polk Reads

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

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