



## Foundation Forum

## March 2010

This is a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on projects and initiatives of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Please forward this to anyone you feel would be interested in learning more about the Pinellas Education Foundation.



### Last Chance to Reserve Your Seat for the Annual Career Education Breakfast – March 24, pTEC St. Pete

[Register today](#) for the 2010 Career Education Breakfast on Wednesday, March 24 from 8:00 am – 9:30 am at pTEC's St. Petersburg Campus. The Foundation is grateful to Presenting Sponsor Crown Automotive for making this event possible. Join us for a delicious breakfast catered by Sweetbay Supermarkets. This event is free to attend, and it is our hope to inspire you to contribute to the Frances Stavros Career Education Programs, allowing us to both preserve our existing career education endeavors and develop new projects to address the needs of students and teachers.

The Annual Career Education Breakfast serves as the community's largest showcase event promoting career education. We will hear moving testimonials from Pinellas County Schools' students, graduates and educators whose lives have been forever impacted by the opportunity to pursue career education. Featured speakers include:

- **Carrie Annand** - pTEC Web Design student and recipient of the Frances Stavros Career Education Scholarship Award. A graphic designer who holds a BA from Ringling College of Art & Design, Ms. Annand enrolled at pTEC to update her skill set in order to advance her 15 year career in the field.
- **Ailisha Godfrey** - pTEC Accounting student and recipient of the Frances Stavros Career Education Scholarship Award. Seventeen years old, Ms. Godfrey has turned her life around after dropping out of high school at 15.
- **Hope Peterson** - pTEC Automotive Mechanics alumna and owner of New Hope Auto and Truck. Ms. Peterson is a pTEC and Pinellas Education Foundation volunteer and serves on the Women's Board of the National Car Council. She will share her inspirational story of how career education helped to turn her life around.

This year's event will highlight pTEC St. Petersburg. Tours of the campus will follow the speaking program, led by student participants from pTEC's award-winning Skills USA teams. Please join us to become more familiar with the Pinellas Education Foundation and our life-changing initiatives. You can read more online at [www.PinellasEducation.org](http://www.PinellasEducation.org).

### Achieva Credit Union Opens New Branch Building in Dunedin

Achieva Credit Union celebrated the Grand Opening of their new Dunedin Branch, located at 1150 Virginia Street, Dunedin, on Saturday, February 6, 2010. "This new building, which is our 13th branch office, is a great addition to the growing number of businesses in Dunedin," stated Gary Regoli, President/CEO of Achieva Credit Union. "We are truly looking forward to serving existing members, as well as new members and business members in the local community." Regoli serves on the Board Directors of the Pinellas Education Foundation.

Achieva is the sponsor of the Achieva Conference Center at the Gus A. Stavros Institute at 12090 Starkey Road in Largo, and also operates a working credit union branch at Northeast High School's Academy of Finance Center of Excellence. At the Viking Branch, students from Northeast staff all the positions. Ashley Levitz a graduate of Northeast's Center of Excellence, is a Member Services Associate at the Largo branch of Achieva.



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## Purchase Your Tickets for Walker's Rising Stars – May 27

Join us as the stars come out on Thursday, May 27 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Kane's Furniture is the presenting sponsor for this exciting evening, which kicks off with a private reception from 6:00pm – 7:00pm followed by the program from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Advance priced tickets are on sale for **only \$7 through April 27**, at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office. This is ticket price ends soon, so act now! Call 727-791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). (Service fees may apply.)

Walker's Rising Stars was created and funded by noted Bay Area neurosurgeon Dr. Jeffrey Walker, to recognize Pinellas County Schools' most outstanding public high school junior and senior solo performers in the fields of instrumental music, vocal music, theater, dance and visual arts. More than 200 students enter the

annual competition. Scholarships valued at \$65,000 will be awarded in categories of: dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music and visual arts. "We're pleased to announce that a new category for a team to win a first-ever digital video award has been introduced this year," said Terry Boehm, President of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Complete details are available at the [Events](#) link of the Pinellas Education Foundation website or [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org).

## Meet Doorways Student Rosa Santos Junior, Clearwater High School

Advanced Placement classes, National Spanish Honor Society and hanging with family and friends are just a few of the entries you'll find in Rosa Santos' planner. It wasn't always this way, but this tuba player currently has a 3.5 GPA and has spent the last ten grading periods on the Honor Roll or Dean's List.

Rosa made a decision at the end of her freshman year to shoot for academic excellence. She was trying to do too much--unorganized and taking honors classes. Rosa began her sophomore year armed with a new planner and attitude! Since then Rosa has learned to balance the demands on her time - whether for fun, family or school. "Now I plan for success," shares Rosa.

Rosa enjoys having Mr. Brown, her band director, as her mentor. "He's always willing to listen. This helps me refocus on what's important," she explains. As her GPA continues to climb, Rosa does not discriminate from whom to ask for help when she faces an obstacle. "I'm willing to hear from anybody who can help me reach my goals," she says.



Ms. Santos' junior year is almost over. We are certain that somewhere in her planner are entries for applying to University of South Florida or Florida State and band competitions. This future criminologist is doing a great job of preparing herself for college life. We wish her well on the next leg of her journey!



## 2nd Annual Seniors & Scholars Health Expo Brings Smiles and Inspiration

The Foundation's Seniors & Scholars program presented its Senior Health Expo on March 12 at the Gus A. Stavros Institute. Despite the rainy day, forty exhibitors and a steady 'stream' of visitors came out for a day of information gathering. Kick-off and keynote speaker, June Kittay (pictured, left) brought smiles, inspiration and energy into the day with her talk, 'Wit, wisdom and wonderful words for a healthy happy life.'

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity for free screening of vision and glaucoma, ear scan and hearing, memory, blood pressure, and the spine. In addition they found valuable information from community organizations, entertainment and life enrichment resources, residential communities, senior consumer product vendors, and representatives of traditional and alternative healthcare. Peggy Macaluso of the Alzheimer's Association spoke about Alzheimer's and other related dementias and Dr. Albert Comey gave a presentation on balance and the risk of falling.

This event was sponsored by Knology and was presented in partnership with Oak Manor Senior Living Community. Thank you to Oak Manor's Marketing Director, Tina Solava for her assistance in organizing the event and to their dietary team who delivered breakfast. Attendees also enjoyed healthy food sampling provided by Boston Market and the Sweetbay Culinary Cruiser.

Special thanks to the Stavros Institute volunteers who assisted for the day: Jan, Braden, Julia, Paul, Enid & Luis. Thanks also to our Seniors & Scholars: Betty Coomber, Erika Kollar and Judy Lund.



Oak Manor staff members Tina Solava, Karen Hale and Jenny Zirbel.



Attendees visit vendor booths and at the 2010 Senior Expo.



### Save the Date for Seniors & Scholars Breakfast – April 14th

Save the Date for the next Seniors & Scholars Breakfast on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the Achieva Conference Center of the Gus A. Stavros Institute, 12100 Starkey Road, in Largo. The featured speaker for the morning is Joye Swisher who will present "Lighten Up with Laughter" – a fascinating program highlighting the medical and emotional benefits of humor. This will be the final breakfast until the fall. The breakfast seminar is free, but you will need to call 727-588-4816 extension 2109 to reserve your seat.



## Volunteers Needed!

**Enterprise Village** teaches fifth-graders about the free enterprise system, what it takes to run a business and a community, how to write checks and make wise consumer choices. During their visit, students actually “work” a designated job, get “paid” for their work and on their breaks, become the consumers.

**Finance Park** teaches eighth-graders about personal finance. Each student receives a simulated life situation, which they use to determine their net monthly income, prepare a budget and make financial decisions that we all face every day. Students must pay all of their bills and balance their checkbooks by the end of the day. If you would like more information on volunteering or if you are able to help advertise our volunteer need, please contact Karen Brighton at 727-588-3746 or e-mail [brightonk@pcsb.org](mailto:brightonk@pcsb.org). Read more at [www.stavrosinstitute.org](http://www.stavrosinstitute.org).

## Come See How the Pinellas Education Foundation Changes Lives - Have Lunch on Us!

The Pinellas Education Foundation changes lives through learning by supporting the following programs:

- Enterprise Village & Finance Park promoting free enterprise and financial education for 5th & 8th graders
- Doorways scholarships & mentoring opportunities for financially deserving students
- Frances Stavros Career Education Fund opportunities & the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy
- College-bound scholarships for graduating high school seniors
- Pinellas County Outstanding Educator of the Year honoring the profession of teaching
- Teacher classroom grants that inspire innovative projects
- Walker's Rising Stars competition featuring talented high school students in the Arts
- Seniors & Scholars breakfast series and events benefiting our 55+ population



We offer one-hour informational sessions to help educate members of the community about the Pinellas Education Foundation and how our programs impact the teachers and students in Pinellas County public schools. These one hour educational sessions include lunch courtesy of Sweetbay Supermarket and a tour of our world-renowned program Enterprise Village. Won't you join us?

Upcoming dates are: Thursday, March 25 and Thursday, April 15.

To reserve your spot, contact JoAnne Ratliff at 727-522-4816 ext. 2210 or [ratliffj@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:ratliffj@pinellaseducation.org).



## Have you Moved Recently?

Please remember to update the Pinellas Education Foundation with your new mail and / or email address if you have recently moved or changed positions. We want to keep you informed of our programs, events and opportunities. Keeping our records updated also helps us to save on postage costs! Thank you for helping us to save money and keep you informed! Send updates to: [info@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:info@pinellaseducation.org) or call 727-588-4816.

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The Pinellas Education Foundation is a member of the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) and the [National School Foundation Association](#).

The Pinellas Education Foundation would like to acknowledge the donors listed below for their pledges and contributions during the month of February 2010. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).

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