



Foundation Forum

April 2009

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.

Doorways Senior Prepares for College

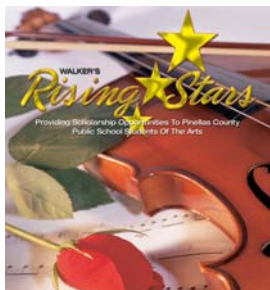


"This Doorways scholarship is one of the greatest gifts I could have been given. I truly am excited that it's my senior year and I'm about to head off to college. Even better, I am lucky enough to have your scholarship to assist me."

~Kristel Bataku, Senior at St. Petersburg High

For more information on how you, your company or civic group can sponsor a deserving child through a Doorways Scholarship, visit our website at www.PinellasEducation.org or call (727) 588-4816.

Get Your Tickets to Watch the Stars Come Out



Now is the time to get your tickets for the annual Walker's Rising Stars Awards Show on May 21 at 7 p.m. at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Funded by noted neurosurgeon, Dr. Jeffrey Walker, this competition will recognize and provide scholarships up to \$10,000 to our most outstanding public high school junior and senior solo performers in the fields of instrumental music, vocal music, theater, dance and visual arts. For information on corporate sponsorships, contact Jessica Kellogg at 727-588-4816 ext. 2114. Tickets to the show can be purchased for \$10 by contacting the Ruth Eckerd Hall box office.

For more information visit our website at www.PinellasEducation.org

Doorways Spirit Invades Tropicana Field

The Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools celebrated Spirit Night with the Tampa Bay Rays on Friday, April 17 at Tropicana Field. The game featured a celebration of the Pinellas Education Foundation's life-changing Doorways Scholarship Program as students from throughout Pinellas County were recognized and honored. More than 2,700 Doorways students and family members attended the game, along with more than 5,000 Pinellas County School employees and family members. The event was an opportunity for students enrolled in the program to get together and celebrate their academic and life success. Jessica Piatt, graduating Doorways senior from Osceola High School, threw out the first pitch. She was joined for the pregame festivities by top Doorways seniors from many of Pinellas County's high schools, along with St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio, Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard, and presenting sponsors Dick Klima from Aon Consulting, Matt Silverman from the Tampa Bay Rays and Bill Protz from the Catalina Marketing Charitable Foundation.



The Doorways Scholarship Program, in cooperation with Take Stock in Children, began in 1992 with 12 students at Largo High. To be eligible for a Doorways scholarship, a student must have financial need and be in grades 6 through 11. Students sign a contract and a mentor is assigned to each student to help them stay on track and motivated. They agree to meet regularly with the mentor, keep their grades up, stay in school, and remain drug and crime free. By fulfilling the requirements, students receive a prepaid, four-year college tuition scholarship or technical school training upon successful completion and graduation from high school. On Thursday, April 16, 175 new students were signed into the Doorways Scholarship Program representing \$1,729,800 in new Doorways Scholarships.

The cost of the Doorways students' attendance at Friday's game was underwritten by Aon Consulting, United Healthcare, Progress Energy, Bright House Networks, Catalina Marketing, Cox Target Media, Crown Auto Dealerships, DITEK, Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Franklin Templeton Investments, General Dynamics OTS, Knology, Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, Pinellas Classroom Teachers' Assn., Raymond James Financial Services, Gus & Frances Stavros, Derby Lane, and the Tampa Bay Rays.

Rays Baseball Foundation Awards Grants to Local Nonprofits

The Rays Baseball Foundation, the official charity of the Tampa Bay Rays, awarded a total of \$150,000 on April 17 to 29 local nonprofit organizations, among them the Pinellas Education Foundation which received a \$5,000 grant for the Frances Stavros Career Education Scholarship Program. Most Rays' players contribute to the Rays Baseball Foundation and its programs. Players who contribute include Carl Crawford, Akinori Iwamura, Scott Kazmir, Evan Longoria, Carlos Pena, Troy Percival, James Shields and Dan Wheeler. Thank you Tampa Bay Rays!



TradeWinds Island Resorts Recognizes Teacher Appreciation Month

Step out of the classroom and into your own island paradise. TradeWinds Island Grand and Sandpiper Suites are giving back to teachers by offering rates as low as \$69 & \$89 for hotel rooms and suites. Save up to \$198 per room per night! Available dates are May 25 – 28, June 4, 7-11, 14, 17-19 and June 28 – July1. Visit www.JustLetGo.com/TEACHER for all details!

Lifestyle Family Fitness Offers Free Teen Summer Memberships

A local health club is giving teens a place to work out during the summer months, when teens may not otherwise have access to physical education. In an effort to battle childhood obesity, Lifestyle Family Fitness began allowing teens free summer memberships three years ago.

"I always dreamed of doing this for teens who may be in the same position I once faced," says Lifestyle Family Fitness founder Geoff Dyer, who once battled childhood obesity tipping the scales at 248 pounds at 17 years of age. Lifestyle Family Fitness opens all 55 of its locations nationwide to teens between the ages of 12 and 17 beginning on May 15, 2009.

Parents can register their teen for the free summer program by visiting www.lff.com/teen . Teens are allowed to visit any Lifestyle Family Fitness unaccompanied after the entire registration process is complete. However, it is requested that they end their visit at 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Your Membership Can Make a Difference

By joining the Pinellas Education Foundation as a member, you enable the Foundation to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the students and educators in Pinellas County Schools, including teacher grants and student scholarships. You will be joining a powerful network of individuals and businesses committed to ensuring Pinellas County Schools offer a quality environment and resources students and teachers need to be successful. To ask about membership, contact Amy Bodow at 727-588-4816 ext. 2115.

Come See How the Pinellas Education Foundation Changes Lives

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 and 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 a tour of our world-renowned program Enterprise Village. Won't you join us?

For information on session dates and times, or to schedule a session, contact Marilyn Browne at 727-522-4816 ext. 2112 or brownem@pinellaseducation.org.

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 March 2009. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).

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