



## Foundation Forum

June 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 Scholars Lead the Class of 2009



Rodolfo Estrada

Abdiel Gonzalez

Sarah Johnston

Emmanuel Manco

Since 1992, the Doorways Scholarship Program, which is a partnership between the Pinellas Education Foundation and Take Stock in Children, has changed the lives of more than 3,000 deserving children by providing them with caring mentors and a college or technical school scholarship. Four such Doorways Scholars led the field this year at the top of their graduating classes. They are Rodolfo Estrada, Valedictorian – Boca Ciega High School; Abdiel Gonzalez, Valedictorian – St. Petersburg Traditional High School; Sarah Johnston, Valedictorian – Seminole High School; and Emanuel Manco, Salutatorian – Pinellas Park High School. Our congratulations to them for their hard work and dedication, and to all of the Doorways Scholars who graduated in 2009.

Each year, the Pinellas Education Foundation has hundreds of students who are nominated for Doorways Scholarships. They are working hard to stay in school, graduate, and hope to go on to college or technical school if only you will help by giving them the gift of an education. Consider giving a gift that will change a life and continue giving for a lifetime, the gift of an education through the Doorways Scholarship Program. The cost for a Doorways Scholarship is \$5,800 and a Doorways Technical Scholarship can be purchased for \$2,500. Whether you can give a full or partial scholarship, every gift is appreciated and will be matched dollar-for-dollar. To learn more about Doorways, visit [www.PinellasEducation.org](http://www.PinellasEducation.org) or call Marilyn Browne at 727-588-4816 ext. 2112. Please consider making an online donation [by clicking here to donate.](#)

### 2009 Walker's Rising Stars Shine at Ruth Eckerd Hall



The annual Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Gala was held May 21 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Funded by St. Petersburg neurosurgeon, Dr. Jeffrey Walker, and presented by the Pinellas Education Foundation, Kane's Furniture and Bright House Networks, the competition recognizes and provides scholarships of up to \$10,000 to Pinellas County's most outstanding public high school junior and senior solo performers in the fields of dance, drama, instrumental, vocal and visual arts. First-place winners in each category received a \$10,000 scholarship. Second through fourth-place winners each received a \$1,000 scholarship. The following were first-place winners: **Dance** - Gabriela Johnson, senior, Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA), Gibbs

High. **Drama** - Sam French, junior, PCCA, Gibbs High. **Instrumental** - Danielle Rossbach, senior, St. Petersburg High. **Visual Arts** - Marques Linder, senior, PCCA, Gibbs High. **Vocal Music** - Blaine Krauss, junior, PCCA, Gibbs High. Congratulations to our 2009 Walker's Rising Stars!

Enjoy pictures from the evening by clicking on the link below. If you were not able to join us this year, make plans now to attend the 2010 Walker's Rising Stars Gala next spring. More details will be available during the upcoming school year. Click here or paste link into your browser:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pinellaseducation/Walkers2009#>

## Young Heroes Recognized for Outstanding Accomplishments

Sponsored by DITEK, the Pinellas County Schools' Young Heroes Award was established to honor students who have given tirelessly of themselves through community service, excelled academically or inspired others through their deeds and strength of character. Dr. Julie Janssen, the Pinellas Education Foundation and Immediate Past Chairman, Bob McIntyre, recently honored the 2008-2009 Pinellas County Young Heroes at an awards breakfast at the Belleair County Club. The first semester Young Heroes are Jordon Holzmacher, Palm Harbor University High School; Lorenzo Bright, Southside Fundamental Middle School; and Lindsey Belcher, Cypress Woods Elementary School. For second semester they are Catherine Lester, St. Petersburg High School; Jacob Heath, Pinellas Park Middle School; and Quint Paxton, Azalea Elementary School. What they do each day simply because they feel it is the right thing to do may inspire observers to imitate their actions.

## Teambuilding at the Stavros Institute

A Team from the University of Phoenix enjoyed a day of volunteering and corporate teambuilding at the Stavros Institute this spring. During the course of their day volunteering in Enterprise Village, they learned new communication skills, shared creative ideas, and discovered that they didn't need a box to think outside – when you're relating to children, you're already there!

Our Enterprise Village and Finance Park teams are ready to challenge your team to a unique experience of teamwork, creativity, planning, leadership, trust and communication by working together on a variety of programs including hands-on business simulations and strategies. One team member shared, "Helping the kids understand real world expectations and that work and like can be fun", was the most meaningful part of the day.



To learn more about having your next company retreat at the Stavros Institute, please contact Marilyn Browne at 588-4816 ext 2112. We look forward to assisting you with this unique experience.

## Publix Helps Certify a Future for Jacobson Culinary Students



The Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy at Tarpon Springs High School, which opened in April, is a world-class culinary arts education facility that will graduate students with ProStart certification. Students graduating from the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy will be college ready and career ready thanks to the generosity of a host of sponsors who believe that career education is a vital component of education for today and the future. One such sponsor is Publix Supermarkets Charities. Their Manager of Media and Community Relations, Shannon Patten, recently presented a \$25,000 check to Pinellas Education Foundation President, Terry Boehm toward their \$250,000 pledge to the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy. Thanks Publix!

## Five More Centers of Excellence Receive Certification

Pinellas County Schools' Centers of Excellence programs provide students with the opportunity to earn high school credit, college credit and industry certification, all at the same time. Centers of Excellence provide students with practical skills, career certifications while, at the same time, preparing them for college or technical school after high school graduation. Plans call for one Center of Excellence on every high school campus by 2010. An independent committee comprised of industry-specific experts and employers make the recommendation for a program to be designated as a Center of Excellence.

These five new career/technical programs are:

- Boca Ciega High – Center for Wellness and Medical Professions
- Northeast High – Culinary Arts Program
- Osceola High – Culinary Arts Program
- Palm Harbor University High – Center for Wellness and Medical Professions
- Tarpon Springs High – Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy

## 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 Ginger Herring at 727-588-4816 ext. 2119.

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For questions, please contact Aubrey Pflughoeft  
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## 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](mailto: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 May 2009. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).**

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