



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Pinellas Education Foundation Creates Finance Park Boot Camp For Foster Youth At Ready For Life

LARGO, Fla. – The Pinellas Education Foundation has created a new program called Finance Park Boot Camp for foster youth involved with Ready For Life, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed by volunteers to engage foster care youth, private citizens and public resources to assist Pinellas County foster youth in a successful transition to adulthood. The course has been customized to meet the unique needs of youth 16 to 23 years of age that are in foster care or have transitioned out of the foster care system.

This program will take place August 1 – 4 for 35 students and will feature three days of training and presentations culminating with a day at Finance Park where students will assume a life profile and have to manage their own household while balancing a simulated household budget.

Each day of the program will feature a different partner from the business community addressing topics including legal issues, managing a bank account, buying/leasing a car, and financial planning.

“We’re thrilled to be able to team up with an amazing organization like Ready For Life and offer a program that will really benefit these students as they become independent adults,” stated Craig Sher, chairman of the Pinellas Education Foundation. “Our goal is to continue partnering with groups like Ready For Life during the summer months so that we can create tailored programs and teach students we may not otherwise reach during the school year.”

Ready For Life Executive Director Kathy Mize stated, “We are excited about this new community partnership and are grateful for the support and dedication from the Pinellas Education Foundation and Finance Park.”

Finance Boot Camp Schedule

Monday, August 1–

- Northeast Exchange Club Financial Representative Cameron Bernard speaks on making financially secure decisions.

Tuesday, August 2 –

- Verizon Wireless will present on Professional Digital Communications: The importance of understanding how what you say and communicate can become part of your permanent life record

- The St.Pete/Clearwater Bar Association will discuss the topic of legal rights related to renting or purchasing property and the legal responsibilities associated with owning/operating a vehicle

Wednesday, August 3 –

- Crown Automotive will talk about negotiating to purchase or lease a vehicle
- Bank of America will discuss good banking practices and basic account management

Thursday, August 4 –

- A Day at Finance Park
- Closing ceremonies and certificate presentations



About The Pinellas Education Foundation

The Pinellas Education Foundation is an independent, non-governmental not-for-profit established in 1986. The Foundation's mission is to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students and educators in Pinellas County Public Schools. Well known Pinellas Education Foundation programs include: Enterprise Village, Finance Park, Doorways Scholarships and Teacher Classroom Grants

About Ready For Life

Ready For Life is an organization formed by volunteers. Their mission is to engage foster care youth, private citizens and public resources to assist Pinellas County foster youth in a successful transition to adulthood. Please visit their website at www.readyforlifepinellas.org

Please visit the Pinellas Education Foundation at pinellaseducation.org.