



The Founders Fund, Inc.  
707 Gulf Park Drive  
Naples, Florida 34108

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# NEWS & Views

Spring 2011

## The Founders Fund, Inc. MISSION

The mission of this charitable activity of the members of The Club Pelican Bay is to provide financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training. Recipients are selected on the basis of need and merit from the ten high schools of Collier County.

The Founders Fund was created in 1991 by the Founding Golf Members of The Club Pelican Bay, a private golf club. The Internal Revenue Service has classified The Founders Fund as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization.

The Founders Fund is supported by both Golf and Social Members of The CLUB, as well as many corporate sponsors which include prominent local and national businesses that are very generous in their support of The Founders Fund. Income from reserve assets and fundraising activities supports annual scholarship grants of approximately \$180,000 per year. Fund scholarship awards have totaled more than \$2,026,000.

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239-593-0124

## Celebrating 20 Years of Service



This year the Founders Fund is celebrating 20 years of service in Collier County. The Fund has grown larger than the founding members could have imagined. With the help and dedication of Club members, benefactors and sponsors, we are now serving more students than ever before.

In 1991/92 season, the initial Board of Trustees for the Founders Fund included only three members – the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. That year 3 students, who were children of Club employees, were awarded \$2,500 scholarships each. In 1993, graduates of the existing Collier County high schools were added to the awards program.

Today, 20 years from its inception, we serve 11 high schools in Collier County with one major fundraising event every other year. This event now includes a golf tournament, raffle, dinner and auction. This event began in 1994 and has been very successful with the help of all our members and sponsors. Next year will be an EVENT year; please watch for the 2012 date to be announced.

## Preferred Travel of Naples raises \$14,000+

Preferred Travel of Naples President and CEO Wilma Boyd was pleased to announce that more than \$14,000 was raised for The Founders Fund, Inc. at the Preferred Travel of Naples annual travel show extravaganza, *Explore Your Dream Destinations*. Each year, they donate all proceeds from the event to a Collier County charitable organization.

More than 40 of Preferred Travel's luxury travel partners from throughout the world participated. Guests enjoyed travel presentations on destinations ranging from world travel by private jet, African safaris and other exotic destinations to Food Network Celebrity Cruises on which guests cook and dine with celebrity chefs and many more luxury travel experiences.



Tom Lear, Olga Placeres, Wilma Boyd, Sue McNaghten, Christine Carlson, Schuyler Peck



The Founders Fund 20th Anniversary cake was provided courtesy of the Lorenzo Walker Institute culinary students.

## Mark your calendar!

The Founders Fund Annual  
Scholarship Awards Reception  
and Ice Cream Social  
at  
The Club Pelican Bay  
May 3, 2011 • 7 p.m.

## Meet our new scholarship recipients.

Board members, benefactors, supports, sponsors and area high school guidance counselors are encouraged to attend.

## 2010/2011 Trustees

Sue McNaghten, Chairman  
 Chris Carlson  
 Lee Dayton  
 Kay Drolet  
 George Gibson, Treasurer  
 Coe Gutowsky  
 Wayne Kent  
 Tom Lear  
 John Levy  
 Tom McCarty  
 Frank Morley, Vice-Chairman  
 Gene Murphy  
 Schuyler Peck  
 Joan Thomas  
 Pidge Weir

## 2010 Sponsors

Bigham Jewelers  
 Gary and Kathy Bigham  
 John Bowman  
 Brennan Family  
 Georgia and John DallePezze  
 Donahue Foundation  
 Fidelity Investments  
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 M & I Wealth Management  
 Mr. Shower Door of Florida  
 Mercedes-Benz of Naples  
 Northern Trust  
 Occasions of Naples, Florist  
 PNC Financial Services Group  
 Preferred Travel

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[FoundersFund@aol.com](mailto:FoundersFund@aol.com)

The Founders Fund, Inc. is on

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[www.facebook.com/pages/  
 The-Founders-Fund-Inc](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Founders-Fund-Inc)

## Message from the Chairman of the Board

*Sue McNaghten*



Our 20th anniversary year is proving to be remarkable thus far -- including a fabulous celebration event provided by Preferred Travel of Naples. They recently 'threw the party' and the Founders Fund received the gifts. Their annual travel show brought more than 300 guests to the event. Each year they donate all proceeds from the event to a Collier County charitable organization and this year the Founder's Fund was chosen to be the proud recipient.

Students from Lorenzo Walker's culinary classes created a cake depicting a travel theme which is now on display in Preferred Travel's offices. Our trustees and several of our scholars were on hand to act as hosts and hostesses and answer questions about the Fund. Guests were enthusiastic about the decor, international cuisine and exciting travel opportunities that were presented during the evening -- feedback was very positive from everyone.

Icing on the cake was when we received the news that Preferred Travel's guests raised \$14,100.00 for the Founders Fund, an unexpected and blessed gift that will now fund seven scholarships.

Our gratitude goes out to the Preferred Travel team who are constant supporters of our events. We deeply thank them for helping the Founders Fund make dreams come true for local students.

## Founders Fund Scholarships

Year	\$ Awarded	New Scholarships
1992	\$7,500	3
1993	\$13,500	11
1994	\$25,368	17
1995	\$35,488	16
1996	\$70,477	32
1997	\$89,250	25
1998	\$113,875	30
1999	\$122,290	26
2000	\$108,250	22
2001/02	\$133,750	26
2002/03	\$136,000	28
2003/04	\$156,000	27
2004/05	\$161,000	30
2005/06	\$157,000	27
2006/07	\$183,000	29
2007/08	\$178,000	26
2008/09	\$174,000	26
2009/10	\$162,000	27
2010/11	TBA	25

The Founders Fund has awarded \$2,026,748 in scholarships over the past 20 years to a total of 453 students.

**THANK YOU** to our members, supporters, sponsors and benefactors -- a great accomplishment!



**Make sure to check out our website!**  
**Photos from all of our events are posted online.**  
[www.thefoundersfundinc.org](http://www.thefoundersfundinc.org)



*We have email!*

### From our Scholarship Recipients

As far as school goes I am doing well, just got done with midterms last week and did great! I spent my spring break down here in Boca Raton. I am very active on campus! I just became an FAU Ambassador (very happy about!!) and I am on the executive board for two of my organizations. But everything is going great and I thank the Founders Fund for everything because without your help I wouldn't be doing everything I am today and I appreciate it.

Thanks and regards,  
 Marjorie Eldira

\*\*\*\*\*

I am a Junior at Mercer University receiving a BA in Economics, minor in Statistics and a BBA in Finance. I am currently the president of the Inter-Fraternity Council and president of the Mercer Free-Marketters. Recently, I was hired by Students for Liberty, at the national level, as a Campus Coordinator for the state of Georgia. I am in the application process with the Charles

G. Koch Foundation for their Koch Internship Program. If accepted, I will be in Washington DC for the summer. I have also decided that I will be attending graduate school for economics. I am hoping to attend George Mason University, in DC, to take part in their 5 year PhD program.

Thanks,  
 Mark Benfield

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Hello! I am studying in Florence, Italy this semester and I'm loving it! So much to see and do! I really appreciate the Founders Fund for backing me and my education to make it possible to study abroad. Although it has been 50 degrees and below the entire time, I'm looking forward to my spring break in Greece this upcoming week where I will be visiting Corfu Island and Athens. Can't wait!

Christen Broxson

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### A parent's comment:

My daughter, Isabella Giorno, received your scholarship in 2007 and is graduating from the University of Miami in May! She's been accepted at the University of Pennsylvania Grad School!! Thank you so much for helping her!!

From Julie Goodacre who commented on The Founders Fund Facebook page.

## 2010 Sustaining Benefactors

John and Sandra Beeman  
 John and Barb Bloomstrom  
 Casper and Phyllis Bocina  
 Judy Brennan  
 Bob and Connie Browne  
 Rocky and Addie Caldwell  
 Bruce and Chris Carlson  
 John and Maureen Cauley  
 Ray and Anne Crisci  
 Lee and Graeme Dayton  
 Roy DeCambra  
 Ed and Pam Dixon  
 Kay Drolet  
 Jim and Lee Elsesser  
 Geoff and Josie Gibson  
 George and Elsa Gibson  
 Jim and Mary Kay Golden  
 Bill and Liz Gorman  
 Larry and Coe Gutowsky  
 David and Mary Hankowski  
 Jim and Natalie Henry

Jon and Maureen Homstad  
 Bob and Elaine Jachino  
 Quentin and Liz Kennedy  
 Wayne and Barb Kent  
 David and Jane Kondracke  
 John and Gail Levy/Rothenberg  
 John and Wendy Lord  
 Milt and Carol Lynnes  
 Marie Macchiaroli  
 Gordon Mackenzie  
 Ron and Clara Marks  
 Tom and Ruth Ann McCarty  
 Tom and Peg McCausland  
 Bill and Ann McCormick  
 Sam and Kay McCullough  
 Joe and Ally McLeod  
 Rob and Sue McNaghten  
 Gale and Nancy Miller  
 Frank and Susan Morley  
 Dan and Mary Murphy  
 Bob and Hanna Nevins  
 John and Gretchen Oakley

James and Janet O'Connor  
 Jake and Nancy O'Donnell  
 John and Katie Ogden  
 Schuyler and Penelope Peck  
 George and Juliana Phillips  
 Larry and Jean Pugh  
 Mike and Joan Salke  
 Vin and Sandy Sarni  
 George and Susan Schreiber  
 John and Jean Marie Simms  
 Bob and Suzanne Skolnick  
 Richard and Christine Spillane  
 Art and Nancy Ann Stagnaro  
 Val Sullivan  
 Jim and Judy Thomas  
 George and Joan Thomas  
 Tim and Sharon Ubben  
 Dick and Janet Van De Velde  
 Michael and Pidge Weir  
 Jerry and Enid Weygandt  
 Jim and Linda Wiggins

## 2010 Scholars' Luncheon

The annual Scholars Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 30, 2010 at the Club Pelican Bay. Nearly 100 people were in attendance, including 41 scholarship recipients who were home for the holidays.

Each year, The Founders Fund holds a luncheon to celebrate with the students who have been awarded a scholarship for the coming year and also to hear about their achievements at school. It is also a venue for students and members of The Founders Fund to interact and get better acquainted.

Sue McNaghten, President of The Founders Fund, delivered

a short message about the importance of the annual renewable scholarships. McNaghten reminded the students that it is small differences that add up over time that make the big differences in the world. She invited each student to speak briefly about their accomplishments and share their major area of study with the rest of the attendees. Students attending were in varying stages of their college career, some graduating soon and others just finishing their first college semester. The theme of all the talks from the students seemed to be -- very high grade point averages.



Rob McNaghten, Maranda Collins and Charles Vaught



Tom McCarty, Mark Benfield and Claudia Polzin



Amabel dela Roma, Brenda Dugan, Sabrina Carrender and Bill Dugan



Maria Mendoza, Sue McNaghten, Tom Butz and Gaelle Colas



Jeanne Jones and Meghan Murphy



Students attending the luncheon



Peter Bielawski, Gabrielle McCaffrey, Connie Moody and Jefferson Iles

## 2011 Annual Counselors' Breakfast

The Annual High School Counselors Breakfast was recently held in early February. Attending the annual event were 10 Collier County High School guidance counselors and members of The Founders Fund.

The purpose of the annual breakfast is to meet area high-school counselors, review the scholarship application process and gather information. Founders Fund members were informed about the various senior classes from those people most involved with the students – their guidance counselors. Sue McNaghten, President of The Founders Fund and Tom Lear, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, encouraged counselors to share their knowledge on the sizes of the upcoming graduating classes, the anticipated financial need of their students, and the difficulties facing college-bound seniors.



Counselors in attendance were: Melissa Hunter - Barron Collier High School, Lee Kay - Community School, Sandy Consolino - Golden Gate High School, Cindy Giles - Gulf Coast High School, Amanda Edson - Imokalee High School, Peg Reale - Lely High School, Joanne Cassio - Lorenzo Walker, Mary Linda Sanders - Naples High School, Cathy Hargis - Palmetto Ridge High School, and Melissa Owen - St. John Neumann.

**TOP:** Melissa Hunter-Barron Collier High School, Sue McNaghten - Founders Fund President, and Melissa Owen - St. John Neumann

**CENTER:** Cindy Giles - Gulf Coast High School, John Levy - Founders Fund Trustee, and Peg Reale - Lely High School

**BOTTOM:** Mary Linda Sanders - Naples High School and Tom Lear - Founders Fund Trustee

## Preferred Travel (continued from page 1)

**PREFERRED TRAVEL OF NAPLES** was founded by President and CEO Wilma Boyd in 1984, Preferred Travel of Naples, Inc. presents a staff of 44 domestic and international travel specialists, and provides worldwide leisure and corporate travel services to individual clients and groups. Preferred Travel of Naples is located in the SunTrust Building at Pelican Bay at 801 Laurel Oak Drive, Suite 300. For information call (239) 261-1177, toll free 800-523-3716 or visit [www.preferrednaples.com](http://www.preferrednaples.com).



Meghan Murphy, Founders Fund Scholar



Travel displays included a Cruise Ship cake



At left, Susan and Frank Morely



At right, travel-themed cake provided courtesy of Lorenzo Walker Institute Culinary students



Sharon Cumming, Preferred Travel and Peggy Chobaw-Rozman, Regent



Jessi Fundora of Sea Dream Yacht Club talks with guests



Reg and Sandra Buxton with Thelma and Earl Hodges



Wilma Boyd, Jerry Nichols, Olga Placeres and Sue McNaghten

## Interviews with Our Founders

### Chris Carlson



After Chris Carlson and her husband Bruce moved to Naples eight years ago, she began looking for volunteer opportunities in her new town. Her background working with children and education was a natural fit for several activities, most notably the Guild Board for the Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples.

Around the same time, her good friend Tim Ubben, then Chairman of the Founders Fund, asked her to chair the event dinner party for the Ed Brennan Biennial Golf Tournament. That first commitment blossomed into seven years of service as a Board member. Chris will be the first to tell you that the best part of it all has been doing the interviews conducted every April to select students who will receive scholarships from the Founders Fund.

When asked which students stand out in her mind, it's clear that Chris has cherished each and every one when she calls them "all success stories." Conducting the interviews has given her the opportunity to see the layers of difficulty in the lives of young people in the community -- and given her the chance to do something to help. Home foreclosures, loss of employment, and physical disabilities are factors facing some of the Fund's current scholarship recipients.

Chris particularly remembers a young woman who was homeless. The girl's mother had lost her job, and then became caught up in drugs. She disappeared from the girl's life. Abandoned by her single mother, this determined young woman lived with different friends while she went to high school. When she came for the Founders Fund scholarship interview she wore borrowed clothes. As Chris says, "She needed someone to believe in her. Friends and school counselors believed in her. Now it was our turn."

Chris is proud that the opportunity offered by the Founders Fund extends to all eleven high schools in Collier County. This scope is made possible by the generous efforts of Fund members. "There are unbelievable success stories," Chris says. One current scholarship recipient is the first of seven children in her family to graduate from high school. Achieving the dream of a college education would have been impossible without the help of the Fund.

"The Founder's Fund is a small organization that does a big job," she says.

Chris is grateful for the interview process and all the rewards it has given her. She wishes she could stay on the Board forever in order to keep doing this important work.

"The only good thing about going off the Board is that now someone else will have a chance to become as passionate about the interviews as I have," she says.

(Photo of Chris was provided in-kind by Girard Photography Inc. [www.girardphotography.com](http://www.girardphotography.com))

### George Fox



George Fox knows what it means to have the chance to get a college education. He grew up in rural Montana as the youngest of 13 children. His family worked for farmers, bringing in crops. "It was very difficult," he remembers. George can relate to the hardships that some families in Florida face. He's seen

many students during the interview process whose parents pick crops, work hard, and earn very little. George has met students at area high schools who come from large families that live on \$1,000 a month, something impossible to fathom in today's economy.

He says, "I have a deep appreciation for the tomato and watermelon pickers of this area."

George was the only one in his family to go to college. This was made possible by the G.I. bill, a government benefit that provided college or vocational education for returning World War II veterans. He knows first hand how important just a little bit of help is. "Back then, the government gave \$50 per year, which paid for a lot," George added.

His last year in college was not funded and it was a struggle. He graduated from the University of Montana and went on to have a successful career in business. He retired as President of Piper Jaffrey, a securities company in Minneapolis, before moving to Naples.

As one of the early members of the Founders Fund, George served for three years on the Club Pelican Bay Country Club Board of Governors as the representative to the Fund -- then continued on as treasurer for the Fund for many years following.

During his time on the Board, George especially loved the interview process. In his words, it was 'the most exciting and soul-searching experience' he could have.

"These kids were all terrific," he says, "I wished we could help them all."

He especially appreciates the Annual Luncheon held after Christmas when students, Founders Fund members, Benefactors and school counselors come together. George is struck by how grateful the students are for the Founders Fund.

"The luncheon gives us a chance to reconnect with the kids. It meant a lot to us to know what it did for them. Often, students say they could not get through college without the help they receive from the Founders Fund," he says.

Today, thanks to efforts of the Founders Fund, young people in Collier County are able to achieve the same dream George had when he was a young man. He and his wife Helen continue to support the Founders Fund as Benefactors, and George continues to play in the Golf Tournament.

## Auction Winners Enjoy

Joe Mcleod was the high bidder in the Founders Fund Event 2010 silent auction last April and won the opportunity to play with PGA Champions Tour member Chip Beck. Chip was the second PGA professional to ever shoot a 59 in a PGA Tour event. Chip won the Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average for the year on the PGA Tour and was a member of three Ryder Cup Teams. He also won four times while playing the PGA Tour. Photo was taken on Monday, January 17, 2011.



From left to right: Ray Crisci, Chip Beck, Joe Mcleod and head golf professional, Jim DeMallie.

Photo was taken on the first tee at Olde Florida Golf Club on December 16, 2010. Ray Crisci was the high bidder in the Founders Fund Event silent auction last April for a foursome to play golf with caddies and enjoy lunch at Olde Florida Golf Club.



From left to right: Adam, Senior Caddy, George Phillips, Ray Crisci, Bill Muehlenbeck, Mike Arthur, Head Golf Professional at OFGC, George Thomas and Mike, Senior Caddy

A BIG thank you from the Founders Fund, we really appreciate high bidding to benefit our scholarships! Karla and Frank Albanese were the winning bidders on the Istanbul -Venice Silverseas/Club Pelican Bay 30th Anniversary Cruise with Connie Moody as our escort.



Karla and Frank Albanese

## Become a Named-Scholar Sponsor

The Founders Fund is initiating a "Named-Scholar Sponsor" program in anticipation of our 2012 biennial fundraising golf event. Individuals and businesses participating in this program will have a student, who is receiving our \$2,000 annual award, identified as their own "named scholar." Their student will



be referred to as their named scholar in press releases and newsletters -- example "Preferred Travel Scholar..." Their scholar will receive an additional \$500 during the first year the student receives a Founders Fund scholarship. These sponsors will receive two tickets to the biennial golf tournament and dinner, as well as invitations to luncheons and events honoring our student recipients.

To be part of the program, businesses will be asked to contribute \$5,000 during the Event year. Individuals will be asked to contribute \$2,500 during the Event year and also the off year. Named-Scholar Sponsors will receive two students, one per year for the two year obligation. Donors and scholars may develop a personal relationship outside of planned Founders Fund events but are not obligated to do so.

NOTE: The Founders Fund is also exploring the idea of establishing an Endowment Fund to build a financial base for potential increases in the number of scholarships awarded and/or the amount of the scholarship. The Endowment Fund would provide greater stability for scholarships and funding. Currently, all annual donations and fundraising go to support new and existing scholars. An endowment fund would attract gifts over and above these annual donations.

## Colleges 2010/2011

We currently have 91 students attending 24 different colleges

Ave Maria University	Princeton University
College of the Holy Cross	Ringling College of Art & Design
Duke University	Stetson University
Edison State College	University of Central Florida
FGCU	University of Florida
Flagler College	University of Miami
Florida Atlantic University	University of North Florida
Florida Institute of Technology	University of South Florida
Florida International University	University of Tampa
Florida State University	Valencia Community College
Hope College	Vanderbilt University
Mercer University	Yale University

