



NEWS & Views

March 2009

The Founders Fund, Inc. • 707 Gulf Park Drive • Naples, Florida 34108 • 239-593-0124

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 \$1,800,000.



Founders Fund Honors Scholarship Recipients

An impressive group of nearly 100 people attended the annual "Get Acquainted Luncheon" of The Founders Fund, Inc. on Friday, January 2. The event, held at The Club Pelican Bay, honored the current scholarship recipients of The Fund. Others in attendance were board members, committee chairs, benefactors, supporters, sponsors, and area high school guidance counselors.

The students addressed the Founders Fund members, informing them about their educational goals, accomplishments and career aspirations. They also thanked the members for their tuition assistance and described how the scholarships have aided them in their higher education schooling.



Students in attendance at the luncheon

Scholarship Breakfast held with Collier High School Guidance Counselors

The Founders Fund, Inc. held its annual High School Counselor breakfast on Wednesday, Feb 4th at The Club Pelican Bay. The annual event was attended by a majority of Collier County High Schools and was aimed at gathering information about the number of anticipated graduates at each school, a sense of current scholarship needs, special application instructions, and updates about The Founders Scholarship Fund. Several private schools were also represented at the morning event.

This year, students will be downloading scholarship applications for the first time from the Collier County Public School System. The process will give all Collier County seniors the opportunity to apply. However, just in case a student does not have access to a computer, school counselors will be helping students through the application process as usual.

The Founders Fund scholarships are \$2000 each and may be renewed if the student maintains a B (3.0) grade average and has a financial need. Students are asked to

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CONTACT the Founders Fund:
Call 239-593-0124 or email
FoundersFund@aol.com

Message from the Chairman of the Board

Ray Crisci



I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our many sponsors, benefactors, present and past trustees. Without these people, the Founders Fund would not be able to help the deserving students that we currently serve. Our scholarships are currently helping 94 students in 27 different schools.

To deliver the services in our mission statement, we must constantly be thinking of ways to raise funds and to gain additional support. We would like to invite businesses that serve Pelican Bay to consider: a financial contribution for sponsorship, being an in-kind sponsor, or donating an auction or raffle item. We would, in return, help to promote the business establishment through participation in our prestigious affairs, newsletters, website and more. Please contact us to discuss how you can get involved.

SPECIAL NOTE: Our last issue of the *News & Views* highlighted the many wonderful men and women who have served on the Board of Trustees over the past 17 years. We inadvertently missed two people during the proofing process.

We would like to take this time to thank Bill Radford and Geoff Gibson for their time of service. The Founders Fund is all about volunteers committed to making a difference in the lives of young people in Collier County.

A Student's View



The Founders Fund Scholarship has given me the extra financial support that allows me to attend an amazing private school, Denison University. Without the added help from Founders Fund I would not have been able to go out of state for school. Though I have received scholarships and grants from Denison, Founders bridges the gap that I would otherwise have to pay out of pocket. Looking back at the initial scholarship program in high school, Founders was the only scholarship fund that interviewed students. This was a great process to get to talk with some of the generous people who would soon be helping me through school. I think it's safe to say that we all feel very lucky to have you in our lives and letting us get through school, so we can eventually give back just as you have. Thank you again!

Christine Martin
Denison University '10

It Pays to Get a College Degree

It really pays to continue education past high school. Students who attain a four year college degree gain not only higher education, but also higher future earnings. Statistics in 2008 showed that a student who graduates from a college or university will likely make 90% more in salary than a high school graduate.

On average, college graduates earn \$59,365 per year as compared to high school graduates who earn an average of \$33,609.

Source: Megan Twohey, *Chicago Tribune*, October 14, 2008

Breakfast with Counselors

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list their co-curricular activities, leadership, honors, awards, community service, and work experience on the application.

“We want to get to know the students and we feel that if a student is involved in leadership and their community as a teenager that they will thrive in college. We want to reward good grades and hard work,” says Sue McNaghten, Scholarship Committee Chair.

In 2008, renewable annual scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded to 25 students in Collier County High Schools. There are currently 94 students at 27 different colleges, universities, vocational schools, and professional programs supported by annual scholarships from the Founders Fund.



Tom Lear – Founders Fund Board, Dr. Cheryl Sington – St. John Neumann High School



Ray Crisci – Founders Fund Board, Linda Sharp - Gulf Coast High School, Dr. Vincent Doria – Everglades High School



Sue Davenport – Pelican Bay and Founders Fund, Kellie Costin – Naples High School, Audrey Moss – Immokalee High School



Sue McNaghten – Founders Fund Board, Cathy Hargis – Palmetto Ridge High School, Sandra Consolino – Golden Gate High School

A Counselor's Gratitude

By Sandra Consolino, Golden Gate High School



I have been a school counselor in Collier County for many years. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the wonderful members on the scholarship committee of the Founders Fund of The Club Pelican Bay since they began the scholarship fifteen years ago.

The committee members who interview candidates for the scholarship have generously given their time to meet and talk with our students. The interviews are rewarding for the students and for the interviewers. The interview is a special, personal touch that the student will always remember. It gives the students an opportunity to explain their unique circumstances. The Founders Fund members who interview always have positive remarks to share about the students' dedication to their goals. They are able to see that students often have overcome many obstacles to be successful.

Many students would not be able to attend college if they did not receive scholarships from programs like this. In some cases the students are able to avoid student loans. Some students who receive the Founders Fund Scholarship have the opportunity to attend their first choice college that may have been financially impossible without the extra funds.

Another very important aspect of the Founders Fund Scholarship is that it is renewable. If the students maintain high grades in college, your scholarship provides money for four years. Thank you to all of the members of the Founders Fund for your generous donations and valuable time that help make the dreams of our students come true.

Thank you!

A Look Back with Past Trustees

Judy Brennan



Judy Brennan knows that a good education is the foundation upon which professional success is built -and she enjoys helping students lay that foundation. Her dedication to student achievement is evidenced through not only her career choice, but her retirement decisions, as well. Judy spent many years working as a Career Center Coordinator in a Massachusetts regional high school, before retiring to Naples, with her husband Ed.

She and her husband moved to Naples and continued their efforts to assist students attain their educational dreams. Ed became an original member of the Founders Fund, planning and fundraising for its establishment. Through his involvement, Judy was exposed to the good works of the charitable organization and to the students who receive scholarships.

This led Judy to follow in Ed's footsteps and become a member of the Board of Directors for the Founders Fund. She served on the board from 2000-2006 and enjoyed getting to visit Collier County high schools and meet with guidance counselors and students.

Judy says, "A highlight each year was going to the area high schools and meeting with students who applied for the scholarships and interviewing them. We all would come back from these interviews and wish we could award each student we met."

She has high hopes for the future of the Founders Fund scholarship program and is pleased to see the enthusiasm and support grow each year. She believes that the six-year term for board members ensures continuity and community commitment to education.

Judy says, "It is a pleasure to see how our members continue to enthusiastically support the Founders Fund and the mission to Make Dreams Come True for so many deserving young people."

Special note: Judy's husband was an original Trustee and founder of the annual golf tournament - which is known as the Ed Brennan Memorial.

Rocky Caldwell



Rocky Caldwell knows what it is like to work hard and he enjoys seeing the younger generation also put forth the effort to get ahead and succeed in life. Caldwell rose to Senior Executive Vice President of Armstrong World Industries, Inc. in Lancaster Pennsylvania after 35 years with the company. Following his retirement in 1990, he didn't take a breather, instead he focused his efforts on helping young men and women from Collier County pursue their post high school education and training.

In 1991, Caldwell along with the other Founding Golf Members of The Club Pelican Bay, a private golf club began a new challenge, creating the non-profit Public Foundation that has become known as The Founders Fund, Inc. The charitable organization started with just \$100,000 in assets, but to date has given out \$ 1,800,000 in scholarships.

Caldwell says, "I never thought the Fund would reach the size it has. It really has taken on a life of its own. Its continued growth is a tribute to the many devoted people who are involved with it."

He is proud that nearly all of the money generated by the Founders Fund goes directly toward scholarships. Only approximately one percent of the funds are spent on administrative expenses.

Caldwell says, "This makes it very attractive to members and donors. It is very gratifying to see members proud of what they are doing."

The Founders Fund is supported by Golf and Social Members of The Club Pelican Bay, as well as many corporate sponsors.

A founding member and six-time Past President of the Board of Directors, Caldwell no longer serves on the board, but remains very involved with the Fund's activities and continues to look ahead.

He says, "The future of the Fund depends on broad involvement from a diverse group of people. I hope it becomes a self-perpetuating organization continuing on forever, long after I am gone. The success of any organization depends on each person who comes along --to pick up, take what's there, add to it, and improve it."

Founders Fund Helps Meet Rising Cost of Going to College

It continues to get more expensive for students to attain their college degrees. According to a report from the College Board (non-profit group that tracks college tuition), the average cost of tuition and fees for college students increased from \$108 to \$1,398 in 2008.

Private four-year \$25,143 (up 5.9 percent from prior year)

Public four-year \$6,585 (up 6.4 percent from prior year)

Public two-year \$2,402 (up 4.7 percent from prior year)

That means a family would shell out over \$26,000 for a four-year public college education and more than \$100,000 for a student's education at a private institution.

Note: Cost and aid figures are from the College Board's Trends in College Pricing 2008, Trends in Student Aid 2008, and Education Pays 2007.

Thank you!

Benefactors 2008

Thank you!

Frank and Karla Albanese
Byron and Irene Anderson
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CONTRIBUTIONS - UPDATE

You may have received a letter recently asking for contributions. We hope you have responded already or are considering your annual gift. Here are the numbers to date:

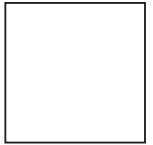
- We have received \$53,750 as of 1/21/09
- Plus \$15,000 from Sustaining Benefactors who paid in advance
- Resulting in a total of \$68,750 from Club members

Compared to:

- 2007 had 76 Sustaining Benefactors and \$93,725 total contributions



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



Annual "Get Acquainted" Luncheon



*Josie Gibson, Christine Swanson,
Connie Moody and Lee Dayton*



*Todd Goldberg, Brice Smith,
Cathy Smith and Christian Calyore*



*Judy Krueger, Jonathan Martin, Val
Sullivan and Lolisa Wallace*



*Marlon Rodriguez, Madeline Viera,
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and Adam Carney*



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