



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

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NEWS & Views

December 2009

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

Annual Golf Tournament

**Monday
April 12
2010**

**The Club
Pelican
Bay**



Mark your calendar and hold this date!

Plans are underway for The Founders Fund 2010 Annual Golf Tournament. The competition will be held on Monday, April 12, 2010 at The Club Pelican Bay with two shotgun starts: 8:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

There is still plenty of room available for players and sponsors of the great event which is the main fundraiser for the organization's efforts to assist Collier County students achieve their dreams of higher education.

An auction will be held following the golf tournament. Donations for the auction are being accepted until April 12th. Pidge Weir and Coe Gutowsky have accepted the job of raffle co-chairs; we appreciate their help in filling this big role.

To support this organization, sponsor, donate or participate in the auction or golf tournament, call Sue Davenport at 239-597-2244 or email her at Suecpb@aol.com.

Let's play golf!

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.



November "Get Acquainted" dinner

A "get acquainted" Dinner was held on November 10th at The CLUB with over 60 attendees. The night was filled with good conversation and great information. The cocktail hour allowed newer members of The CLUB to meet seasoned members and to get to know one another a little bit better.

After a lovely dinner buffet, Rocky Caldwell gave a brief history of The Founders Fund and how the whole idea came to fruition. It is an amazing story, to say the least, as was Rocky's explanation of the circumstances of how the first funds became available -- a bit of a miracle for those first scholarship recipients.



Joni & Brian Pelletier

One of the most moving moments of the evening was a well-delivered "thank you" from one of the Fund's graduates. Joni Pelletier, who is now a teacher, told of her challenges in life, her time spent in foster care and her life with a grandmother who sacrificed much to raise her and her siblings. Joni taught in the Collier County school system for several years and recently moved to Lee County where she now teaches kindergarten and special education. Her story was very compelling and furthered the mission of The Founders Fund. This young lady, now a mother herself, overcame the odds and, with the help of The Founders Fund scholarship, graduated from college.



Susie Morley & Chris Carlson



Rocky Caldwell & George Gibson



Pat Carroll, Clara Marks, Gerry Carroll & Coe Gutowsky



Chris Spillane, Graeme Dayton, Michon Herbst & Kay Drolet

2009/2010 Trustees

Ray Crisci, Chairman
George Gibson, Treasurer
Chris Carlson
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Kay Drolet
Leo Flanagan
Coe Gutowsky
Jon Homstad
Wayne Kent
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2009 Major Sponsors

American Momentum Bank
The Bigham Jewelers Foundation
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Cox & Nici Attorneys at Law
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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



Congratulations to The Founders Fund on its 19th year of service. We now sponsor 94 students with scholarship funds at colleges and universities throughout the United States. It has only been through the hard work of our Trustees, past and present, as well as the participating members of The CLUB, that we have been able to enjoy such success.

It goes without saying that to give out scholarships, we need money. Our major fundraising event to support this work will be held April 12, 2010. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of this event. I'm talking about our biennial golf tournament, raffle, dinner and auction. We can only do this with the help of all of our members. Please consider offering to assist with raffle prizes and/or auction items. A small amount of your time will pay big benefits to a deserving student.

We need the help of every member of The Club Pelican Bay, so please, jump in and help. We promise that you will enjoy being part of this exciting and fulfilling event.

Amazing facts about Collier County schools

- The School District of Collier County earned its first-ever "A" grade from the State of Florida Department of Education for the 2008-2009 school year. The District has maintained a "B" grade since 2004, when district grades were first given.
- At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, eight Collier County schools had made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the very stringent federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) criteria.
- During the 2008-2009 school year, The School District of Collier County received assistance from more than 7,200 active and dedicated volunteers. They donated an amazing quarter of a million hours of service to the district's students and schools.
- Collier County high school students take college-level courses and earn college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Last school year, 2,136 students took 3,608 AP exams.
- English is not the first language for 15.4% of students in Collier County, with more than 6,500 students in the English Language Learners (ELL) program. Collectively, these students speak 81 different heritage languages and hail from 147 different countries of origin.
- Forty-four percent of Collier County students live in non-English speaking homes, where English is not the first language and sometimes isn't even spoken. The percentage increases to 52% in grades Pre-K through 3.
- The School District of Collier County is a recognized leader in Florida when it comes to technology. There are more than 24,000 networked computers in use district-wide.

Facts courtesy of the Collier County Public School District

The Founders Fund, Inc. is now on
Become a FAN.

facebook

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Founders-Fund-Inc

Florida college enrollment booms

Many students across the U.S. are opting to stay in-state to save on college costs.

Enrollment is up at 10 of the 11 state universities in Florida, and at an all-time high at eight of them. South Florida's three community colleges also have record enrollments.

Money is the big reason for the boom, officials say. Reacting to the recession, some students are pursuing more education if their job prospects are poor, while others are foregoing more expensive out-of-state or private schools.

The surging enrollment has meant tougher admissions standards. Most universities put no limits on qualified transfers or graduate students. Several schools, including Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida in Orlando, reported drops in freshmen enrollment. Budget cuts prompted some to cap the number of freshmen they accepted, saying the state doesn't adequately fund the cost of educating them.

However, with increased overall enrollment, budget cuts, and no ability to expand class sizes, students sometimes find classes they want to get into wait-listed. Some are opting to pick online classes or classes later at night than they would normally want.

Source: *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, September 24, 2009

Higher education equals higher earnings

The higher level of education, the higher the potential earnings. According to the College Board, over a lifetime the typical full-time worker with a four-year college degree will earn 60 percent more than a worker with only a high school diploma. In addition the amount of money earned continues to increase as the education increases. The organization says workers with master's degrees earn almost twice as much per year, and those with professional degrees earn almost three times as much as high school graduates earn over their working lives.

Source: *College Board*

Higher education helps in a recession

The statistics show that higher education not only means a bigger paycheck, but it also means a steadier income, as well. A report by the U.S. Department of Labor revealed that workers who continued their education past high school fared better in the recession. The unemployment rate for those with at least a bachelor's degree was 4.7% in July, but it jumped to 7.9% for workers with only some college or an associate degree. Those in the workforce with only a high school diploma saw a jobless rate of 9.4% and those with less education than that saw an unemployment rate of more than 15%.

Source: *US Department of Labor*



We get emails ...

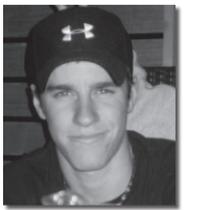
From our Scholarship Recipients



"First of all I want to thank the Board of Trustees at The Founders Fund. My heart goes out to this organization, for without it my college education would not exist to its potential. This scholarship has paid for everything from my textbooks and school materials to gas for my commute. Every penny of this scholarship is used with care and respect for those who have given it to me. I am a Nursing major, with a double minor in Sociology and Psychology. I would not have the funding to pay for my own textbooks for any given semester, if it weren't for the scholarship. For example for the spring of 2009 the cost was more than \$800 and that did not include software and other materials for my classes."

— Amanda Gagnon

"To put it simply, your scholarship helps make my college experience possible. Coming from a family with a single mother and four kids on a teacher's salary, money is hard to come by. Your generosity ameliorates this difficult financial situation"



— Michael Stephens

"I want to start by thanking you for all of your financial support over the years. I recently graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Anthropology. The scholarship helped me in a number of different ways. I have supported myself from day one of college and never would have made it through four years without the help from all of you. I have landed a "career job". I am working for a non-profit organization that helps to supervise youths on conditional release. These kids are what you would call the "worst of the worst." They have multiple felonies and have already been in and out of detention programs. It ties into my degree as I am learning about the juvenile system and helping to keep kids on the right track"

— Alysia Smith

Interviews with Our Founders

Cheryl Cullen



Board Member Cheryl Cullen says the children and their need for advanced education are what keep her involved in The Founders Fund. She became involved with the organization in 1992 by joining the Board of Directors. In 1993, Cullen and Ed Brennan initiated a dinner with raffle prizes to raise additional funds for the scholarships. That dinner evolved into a golf tournament which now is the primary fundraiser for The

Founders Fund.

Cheryl says, "Who could have imagined that a dinner and raffle would have continued and grown to what it is today. Rocky Caldwell, the first Founders Chair, should be very proud of where we are today as I know the late Ed Brennan would be."

Cheryl and her husband Jack have lived in Pelican Bay since 1986, summering at New Seabury on Cape Cod. She has two sons and five grandchildren. Her involvement in educational opportunities for youth is not limited to The Founders Fund. She started by getting involved with a scholarship program at her sons' private school in Massachusetts and raising money for the Youth Hockey and then the Youth Soccer.

A 1993 diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis and one year spent as a paraplegic didn't slow down Cheryl. She stayed involved with the Fund by working from her home.

She says, "Some of the children may never have an opportunity to attend school without our support. It is heartwarming to hear their stories and how we have helped them."

Though Cheryl retired as a Trustee in 2000, she still stays active at The CLUB by participating on the Board of Governors, serving as chairman of the Social Committee, and being a member of the Ladies Golf Committee.

Looking toward the future of The Founders Fund, Cheryl sees a continued and increased need among local high school students.

She says, "As Collier County continues to grow, I can see us expanding and handling future high schools. Especially in this economy, the students will need our assistance."

Fund Facts

- 429 students served since 1992
- \$1,864,748 scholarship dollars distributed
- 60 renewed scholarships for 2008-09

Paul Slater - A True Fundraiser



A True Fundraiser, Paul Slater makes it his business to know the numbers, whether it is financing the restructuring of an international business or generating funds for The Founders Fund.

He serves as Chairman of First International Corporation, making his living as a private investment banker who specializes in the maritime transport and energy industries across the globe. Paul

and his wife Barbara have lived in Naples since 1989, spending 15 years at Pelican Bay before moving to Pelican Marsh.

Paul has been a member of The Club Pelican Bay since 1983 and led the team which bought The CLUB for the members from Westinghouse in 1990. As the initial Chairman of the Board of Governors for The Club Pelican Bay, he raised approximately \$150,000 from the members to fund legal and accounting expenses (which were refunded by Westinghouse on closing the deal.)

Upon the refund, Paul proposed to members that they use the monies to set up an educational fund to provide grants for the children of club employees. Club members unanimously agreed on the proposal and upon legal advice expanded the reach of the educational fund to include qualified applicants from all of Collier County.

Paul says, "The fund has grown tremendously since its inception. It gives members a chance to support the local community even though the majority of them are only here in the winters."

Paul believes that club member support of The Founders Fund is essential to its surviving and thriving in this turbulent and uncertain economy.

Paul says, "All charities face the problems of the huge losses of private capital coming out of the collapse of the banking markets and the economic recession. The Founders Fund needs continuing donations to maintain and expand its grants and must adjust to these new financial times ... and assume they will be with us for some years to come."

Paul knows the importance of a good education and understands the high financial cost to achieve it. He has served as a governor of a local private school, as a trustee of a university in Great Britain and is founding chairman of an industrial foundation which provides educational tools to people interested in the international shipping industry. He also has four sons who have all graduated from college.

He says, "Today the Fund needs to reconnect with the membership and explain its achievements and its objectives. A picture gallery of all our recipients and their stories would be a good start. Every new member should be given a brochure on the Fund and encouraged to donate."

PAUL SLATER, Chairman, First International Corp
(P)239 263 6061 (F)239 263 6056 (C)239 250 9901

Scholarship recipients honored

It was an evening to celebrate and remember as an impressive group of over 100 people attended the first annual Scholarship Awards Reception at The Club Pelican Bay on May 7. The reception honored the latest in a long line of outstanding high school seniors who will be receiving Founders Fund college scholarships beginning in 2009. The students were joined by family members, friends, board members, committee chairs, benefactors, supporters, and area high school guidance counselors.

The Founders Fund, Inc. awarded 27 scholarships this year, and 21 of the students were on hand to accept their awards at the reception. Each student will receive \$2000 per year during their four years of college. The 2009 recipients will be attending colleges and universities all over the United States, and studying a wide variety of topics, from pre-med and social services to communications and business.



2009/2010 Scholarship Recipients

Community School - Julian Calixtro

Everglades - Renee Gonzalez

Golden Gate - Johal Baez, Thu Doan, Marjorie Eldira

Gulf Coast - Catherine Eble, Daniel Marulanda, Andrea Ramos

Immokalee - Jose Martinez, Sergio Martinez, Maria Mendoza, Bruna Pierre, Gaelle Colas

Lely High - Caleb Eiler, Victoria Howard, Sebastian Mancera

Naples High - Weslände Baptiste, Colleen Carney, Yvenalie Louissaint, Ashley Gore

Palmetto Ridge - Peter Bielawski, Jefferson Iles, Kimberly Milne

St. John Neumann - Amabel Mendoza dela Roma, Nickolas Pantner

The Club Pelican Bay - Carmen Elliott, Paige Driapsa, Gabrielle McCaffrey

Colleges 2009/2010

Following is a list of colleges where our students are currently in attendance.

Barnard College
College of the Holy Cross
Denison University
Eckerd College
Edison State College
FGCU
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida State University
Hope College
Mercer University
New College of Florida
Princeton University
Santa Fe Community College
Smith College
Stetson University
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
Valencia Community College
Vanderbilt University

HOLD THE DATE

**The Founders Fund
to honor
Scholarship Recipients
at the annual
"Get Acquainted Luncheon"
at
The Club Pelican Bay
Wednesday, December 30th**

**Board members,
committee chairs,
benefactors, supporters,
sponsors, and area
high school guidance
counselors are encouraged
to attend.**