

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





The Mission continues

The MISSION will continue for years to come and even with more momentum than it began. This year, the Founders Fund has been celebrating and reviewing its past 20 years of service in the community. As many of you know, 2011 marked our 20th anniversary. Reflecting back on the many board members, students, sponsors and volunteers that have been part of our mission is quite impressive -- our accomplishments are farreaching.



In 1991, when Club members voted to designate the unspent deposits of \$200 per member to be used for charitable activities, the Founders Fund was born. These deposits were originally made

to The Pelican Golf Association for golf course start-up fees. Since the deposits were not needed, the Fund was created with the initial intent to provide scholarships for post high school education to club employees and their families.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the initial 1991/92 Board of Trustees included only three members and only three students received scholarships that year. This coming year we will work to award at least 25 local students with four-year renewable scholarships. The first three Founders Fund scholarships were given to Paul Hineman, son of Carol Hineman, Membership Secretary. Paul was a senior at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Marissa Keeble, daughter of Diana Keeble, Club waitress, was a sophomore at the University of West Florida. Karl Mueller was also a sophomore and attended Rollins College. His mother Mary Mueller was also a Club waitress. They each received \$2500 in the fall of 1992.

The original mission of the Fund was intended to assist the Club Pelican Bay employees and their families with expenses for post graduate education. To qualify for 501(c)3 status with the IRS, scholarships were added to include graduates of Collier County schools based on need and academic achievement.

Since 1992, the tradition of offering scholarship opportunities to our Club employees and/or family members has continued with employee children, as well as waitresses, waiters, administrative office workers, pro shop personnel and cart barn attendants, receiving awards. An employee and/or family member must meet a length of service criteria and be accepted to an educational institution to be considered for an award. Spring 2011, three young men were selected for this honor from the Club.

The Founders Fund, Inc. is supported by Golf and Social Members of The CLUB, as well as many corporate sponsors which include prominent local and national businesses. Individuals and businesses in support of the cause now have the opportunity to fund a Sponsored Scholar. The current budget for scholarships is now exceeding \$200,000 annually and as we look into the future, we know this budget will surely grow over the next 20 years as our mission continues.



Annual Get-Acquainted Luncheon

> Friday, December 30 Noon - 2 PM at The CLUB at Pelican Bay To be held in honor of the students and all former Trustees.

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

The tweets are twittering Facebook is gathering friends E-mails are flying!

Join your friends at the Club for The 10th Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Tournament to benefit the Founders Fund Student Scholarships April 2, 2012.

Club members' donation of \$1000.00 will replenish the Fund and assure donors of an outstanding day of golf followed by a delicious dinner featuring raffle prizes and tantalizing auction packages.

To find out more about the students the Fund supports and to learn about the Founders Fund activities, visit www.thefoundersfundinc.org.



Sofia Kyle, 2011/12 Scholarship Recipient with Rocky Caldwell, 1st Founders Fund Chairman

Memorial Golf Tournament set

Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the Founders Fund 2012 Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament. The golf tournament will be held on Monday, April 2, 2012 at The Club Pelican Bay with two shotgun starts: 8:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Players and sponsors are encouraged to register early for this great event which is the main fundraiser for the organization's efforts to assist Collier County students achieve their dreams of higher education.

In addition to the golf tournament, the event will again include a luncheon, evening cocktail reception, silent auction, raffle, dinner and end with a highly energetic and competitive live auction. Donations for the auction are currently being accepted.

The first tournament which included a banquet and raffle was suggested by Ed Brennan in 1994; a net of \$71,000 was raised and since then, the tournament has been held every two years. The 2010 Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament raised over \$250,000 to support local scholarships.

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.



2011/2012 Trustees

Sue McNaghten, Chairperson Dick Censits Lee Dayton George Gibson, Treasurer Coe Gutowsky Wayne Kent Tom Lear John Levy Mollie Moffat Frank Morely, Vice Chairman Gene Murphy Gerald O'Connor. The Club Board of Governors Maureen O'Gorman Schulver Peck Joan Thomas Pidge Wier

Special WELCOME to three new trustee members: Dick Censits, Mollie Moffat and Maureen O'Gorman

Major Sponsors

Anonymous Sponsor **Bigham Jewelers** John Bowman Brennan Family Georgia & John DallePezze **Fidelity Investments** Fifth Third Bank - South Florida Mercedes Benz of Naples M & I Wealth Management Mr. Shower Door of Florida Northern Trust Occasions of Naples, Florida **PNC Financial Services Group** Preferred Travel

CONTACT The Founders Fund: Call 239-593-0124 or email Suecpb@aol.com

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facebook.

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

Message from the Chairman of the Board



The Founders Fund is concluding its 20th anniversary year and looking forward to many more decades of making the dream of higher education come true for deserving high school graduates. Since 1991, over 475 students have benefited from the more than \$2,000,000.00 raised through the efforts of Club Pelican Bay members, staff and community donors. This is quite an accomplishment for a relatively small number of generous individuals and businesses who understand the value of an education to young people and the impact a good education has on our country's future!

Our ability to provide these scholarships depends upon the success of fundraising efforts by the Founders Fund Trustees. Every other year, The Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament, accompanied by an elegant dinner with raffle prizes, silent and live auctions, is held at Club Pelican Bay.

The organization's goal this season is to acquaint all golfing and social Club members with the Founders Fund and its mission in order to rally their support for Event 2012 this spring.

We hope that the stories in this newsletter will provide insights into the Fund's work by showcasing our activities, student recipients, volunteers and contributors.

Please join our Trustees and help make Event 2012 an outstanding success for all participants and their student beneficiaries.

College Costs Then and Now

"The cost of college has long been a major concern of American parents, but never more so than today." You might think this quote was from a recent study about the rising costs of college for students in 2011, but it's not. Money Magazine said this twenty years ago in September of 1991, reporting that the average bill for a year at a state school was \$5,248 in the 1990-91 academic year.

The 2010-11 costs are sobering. Average total charges, including tuition and fees and room and board, are \$16,140, according to The College Board. Following trends in college pricing, they report that over the decade from 2000-01 to 2010-11, published tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 5.6% per year beyond the rate of general inflation. This growth rate led the price to increase from 22% of the average tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions to 28% over the decade.

The sad truth is that many American incomes can't keep up with tuition hikes. Tuition and fees at public universities have surged over the last 20 years--while middle class incomes have stagnated.

Since tuition alone is only part of the cost of college, families continue to struggle with the additional expenses of room and board, books and fees. "As the out-ofpocket costs of a college education go up faster than incomes, it's pricing low and medium income families out of a college education," said Mark Kantrowitz, a leading expert on financial aid and publisher of sites FinAid.org and FastWeb.com.

Sources:

Jersey Gilbert for Money Magazine, September 10, 1991 The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2010 FinAid.org, 2011

Frank and Karla Albanese John and Sandra Beeman Bobbie Betts-Garber* John and Barb Bloomstrom Casper and Phyllis Bocina Iudv Brennan Bob and Connie Browne Rocky and Addie Caldwell Bruce and Chris Carlson Pat and Gerry Carroll John and Maureen Cauley Bill and Jackie Corbett Jim and Carole Crane Ray and Anne Crisci Gus and Iane Cronin Jack and Cheryl Cullen Doug and Janet Danforth Lee and Graeme Dayton Roy DeCambra Doug and Dorry Dillon Ed and Pam Dixon Barney and Joanne Dougherty Kay Drolet Bill and Brenda Dugan* Paul and Marge Duncan Jim and Lee Elsesser Rick and Pat Ermler Nick and Carole Feagler Bill and Mary Ann Ferguson* Ray and Mary Lou Fink Leo and Justine Flanagan George and Helen Fox* Neil and Lois Gagnon John Garber* Claude Germain Geoff and Josie Gibson George and Elsa Gibson Jim and Mary Kay Golden Bill and Liz Gorman Hem and Asha Gupta Larry and Coe Gutowsky David and Mary Hankowski Jim and Natalie Henry Jim and Mercedes Heyrman Al and Mille Holtz Jon and Maureen Homstad

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Regretfully, several of the Founders Fund longtime loyal supporters were omitted from the list of Sustainers recognized on our Spring 2011 newsletter. They are indicated by an * in the list above.

We also wish to acknowledge that the Founders Fund has been the recipient of generous contributions from an anonymous donor over the years.

2011 Benefactors

Donald and Diane Pennett George and Juliana Phillips Larry and Jean Pugh Bill and Carol Queenan Bill and Pat Radford* Bruce and Kathleen Raimev Buss and Lou Ann Ransom Angel and Hope Roubin Cliff and Sig Ryan Mike and Joan Salke Vin and Sandy Sarni Bill and Kathy Schirmang Tim and Sally Schrader George and Susan Schreiber Stan and Marcy Seneker John and Lynnell Shroyer John and Jean Marie Simms Bob and Suzanne Skolnick Mary Small Ed and Alice Smeds Brice and Cathy Smith Larry and Gitte Smith Richard and Christine Spillane Jack and Deta Stafford* Art and Nancy Ann Stagnaro David and Pat Stieber Jack and Carol Strong Robert and Arlene Subin Val Sullivan Bob and Judy Swearingen Joseph and Mary Jane Tavolacci Jim and Judy Thomas George and Joan Thomas Tim and Sharon Ubben Bill Umphred Harry and Mary Lou Van Benschoten Dick and Janet Van DeVelde Bill and Louise Warshauer Michael and Pidge Weir Jerry and Judie Wensinger Jerry and Enid Weygandt Larry and Gail White Jim and Linda Wiggins Tom and Mary Williams Bill and Lvnn Wood



From our Scholarship Recipients



"I recently started the Nursing program this fall semester and the Founders Fund scholarship has truly been a blessing. It has helped me pay for all the materials I needed such as textbooks, scrubs, and even as gas money to help me to get to my clinicals at the hospital. Preparing for the Nursing program is not a cheap

process, so every penny counts! Thank you. "

Amabel dela Roma

Iunior at Florida International University, Miami, FL



"My scholarship has helped me in just about every way possible. It allowed me to take an online class that Bright Futures does not pay for, and it is really helping me enjoy college more. It puts less stress on me because I don't need to take out loans, and less stress is always a

great thing when studying for tests. Thank you." Ivsha Aldikacti, FSU



"School is going great, and my college career is soon to come to an end when I graduate in May with a dual degree in Spanish and General Business with an area of specialization in International Studies. My time here at UF has flown by and it's still surreal to me that I'm about to enter the real world, vet I'm excited

about it and have been attending career fairs, information sessions, and doing interviews. None of this could have been possible without your support, and I could never thank you all enough for positively impacting my life and giving me the opportunity to become a Florida Gator." Sabrina Carrender. UF



"My schedule around campus can get kind of hectic, especially since I am also in the marching band and the Business LLC here on campus. So far all of my classes are going well; my lowest grade in any of my classes is an 88 B+. We haven't got around to mid-terms vet, but as soon as we do I'll notify you on how I

did. So far I'm on track to get my Masters in Accounting in 5 years. The scholarship has been a great help for me personally and I've put it to use paying for most of my housing expenses. Again, thank you to all the members of the Founders Fund for the scholarship.

Chris LaCivita, Florida Atlantic University

Colleges 2011/2012

We currently have 100 students attending 25 different colleges

Ave Maria University College of the Holy Cross Duke University Edison State College FGCU Flagler College Florida Atlantic University Florida International University Florida State University Hope College Mercer University **Princeton University**

Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute **Rice University** Ringling College of Art & Design Rhodes 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 Yale University

Named scholarship opportunities

Two new categories giving the opportunity to offer scholarships named for the donor have been added to sponsorship options for the 2012 Event.

FOUNDERS FUND SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS - (Example: 'John Jones' sponsored scholar) - a \$5000.00 donation will fund a scholarship of \$2500.00 for each of two years.

Founders Sponsored Scholars, selected on academic merit, will receive a scholarship for \$2500 instead of the standard \$2000.00.

FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP WITH DISTINCTION - (Example: 'ABC Corporate' scholarship of distinction) - a \$10,000.00 commitment will finance a Founders Fund student who has the best high school academic record with \$2500.00 per year for four vears of college.

Besides participation in the biennial golf tournament and banquet, sponsors/donors will receive invitations to luncheons and events honoring their student recipient. Donors and their scholars may communicate outside of planned Founders Fund events but are not obligated to do so. All donors will be listed in programs, newsletters and special publicity showcasing the Fund and its scholars.

Club Employees Share Their Gratitude

Rod Lucks is an Assistant Superintendent for the Club's Golf Course maintenance department and has been with the Club since February 2010. When he found out about the Founders Fund scholarship program he was excited and thankful as his son, David, was in need of financial aid to attend college at FGCU. By working for the Club and being eligible for the scholarship, Rod feels like he is helping to contribute to his son's education.



"When the economy took a downturn a few years ago, so did our finances. I lost my job and had to use our family savings to live on -- to pay the house payment and our other expenses. Some of that money was David's college fund," savs Rod. "Financially it has been tough. David understood that without a

Monique, David & Rod Lucks

job, I had to take what we had saved and use it to provide for the family. He understood completely and told me not to worry. David is a hardworking young man and is working to put himself through school. He is part of the wait staff at private club in Estero; he mows lawns in the summer to make extra cash, and has been working since he was 12 years old. He bought his own car and has a business on e-bay selling license plates. I am very proud of him and his willingness to work so hard to gain his college degree. Our entire family is so thankful for the scholarship; it is a blessing and an extra bonus to my job."

Bob Bittner is the Director of Golf Course Operations and has been an employee of the Club since its beginning in 1991. He has actually been at the golf course for 32 years as he

was with the original WCI group. He is convinced the Club is a wonderful place to work because of the consideration that the membership shows its employees with an initiative like the Founders Fund scholarships.



Mary Jo, Pierce & Rob Bittner

Bob's son, Pierce, is the third Founders scholar in his family and a source of great pride to his father. Pierce actually met dual criteria for a scholarship, as an employee child and an employee of the Club himself. Since 2009, Pierce has worked on special course maintenance projects every summer and during school breaks. He is now living on campus at FGCU, receiving good grades as a reward for studying hard. He is enjoying his college experience during his freshman year.

"We are thrilled that our children have applied themselves so they could have the college education we planned for them. However, no matter how much you plan and think you are ready for college expenses, it just isn't enough, especially with more than one child enrolled at the same time. Even with the Florida Bright Futures awards and a Florida pre-paid college fund for each, it's just not enough when considering all the expenses beyond tuition alone," says Bob. "The Founders Fund scholarship helps pay for college living expenses and books which are incredibly expensive. Pierce just had to buy a very expensive computer program for a class requirement. Fortunately, the Fund helps with these types of extra expenses. We can't say thank you enough to the Founders Fund... our entire family is very appreciative."

Marc LaCivita works in the valet department and has been a Club employee for nearly 10 years. He is very proud of his son, Chris, who is making excellent grades at Florida Atlantic University. Chris is majoring in business and is really studying hard according to his proud father.



Chris & Marc LaCivita

"I want to thank the Founders Fund for all they do. The scholarship has taken a great burden off our family as it is helping with room and board expenses," savs Marc. "I just found out about the scholarships last year and decided to apply. We tried to prepare for college expenses by paying into the Florida pre-paid college fund, however, it doesn't cover everything.

Many more expenses arise, room and board is approximately \$11,000 per year, not to mention tuition and books. The total is around \$18,000 per year. Even with our planning, we are about \$7,000 short each year. So you can imagine how appreciative our family is to have \$2,000 each year to help with college expenses. It is really a blessing."

Marc also works construction and has held down two jobs for most of his life. His wish for Chris is that he gets a great education so he can have a rewarding career and not have to work two jobs to make ends meet. Like most every other father in his situation. Marc wants the best future for his son.

Retro Food Costs

Much has changed in the past 20 years including the cost of food. A student attending college in 1991 would most likely buy some of these items just as today's student, the only difference, the PRICE. College is an expensive undertaking for many students and any assistance they receive helps to fund their college life – including food!

Campbell's Soup in 1991 cost 33 cents per can; now it's \$1.39. Pork & Beans was 33 cents, now it's \$1.69. Seedless Grapes at 59 cents are \$1.29. A loaf of white bread, 89 cents; now \$2.50! Even the humble Hershey Bar has doubled from 45 cents to 89 cents.

\$208,000 in College Scholarships Awarded

by The Founders Fund, Inc. Awards, Bringing 20 Year Total to Over Two Million Dollars!

Who would have thought a group of golf club members from Pelican Bay could award over two million dollars in scholarships? The original goal, in 1991, was to offer scholarships to the

children of staff members at Club Pelican Bay. The dream quickly expanded to include other Collier County students desiring a higher education but who could not afford all the expenses on their own.

This year marks the 20th anniversary for the

Founders Fund and a total of 479 local students have received scholarships thus far. This number includes the 26 exceptional students who will be receiving scholarships to attend college this fall. This number includes 23 Collier County students and three children of Club Pelican Bay employees.

The Founders Fund, Inc. is a non-profit and tax-exempt charitable organization that has many of its original founding members still very active in the fundraising efforts that guarantee at least 23 new scholarships are awarded annually.

"Since our scholarships are renewable each year for students who keep a B average, we always have between 90 and 100 students that are receiving our scholarships annually," said Sue McNaghten, president of the Founders Fund. "That means we have to raise enough funds to meet the \$200,000 budget every year for these scholarships and we have continued to do that through the Club Pelican Bay social and golf members, Founders Fund benefactors, sponsors, donors, and our biannual golf event and dinner. We have been very blessed to have such dedicated people believing in our mission."

The 2011 Annual Scholarship Awards Reception was held for this year's recipients at the Club Pelican Bay on May 3 with students, family members, high school counselors, benefactors, board members and sponsors in attendance.

Rocky Caldwell, First Chairperson of the Founders Fund in 1991 opened the program for the evening by encouraging students to work hard and to do everything they can to preserve our American freedoms. George Fox, also a founding member, spoke next and gave a short recap of his life, his struggles and his success. Fox came from humble beginnings and as a boy worked



"It's just as important to know what you don't want to do in

life, as it is to know what you want," said Fox. "I knew I didn't want to work in the fields bringing in crops the rest of my life so I made the choices that led me to the life I have now.'

The mission is to provide financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of higher education and once again, the Founders Fund has met its goal awarding the following scholarships.

2011 Scholarship Recipients:

Barron Collier: Margit Mikkelsen, Alina Winschel Community School: Sophia Kyle **Everglades:** Haylee Stokes Golden Gate: Alexis Schlaupitz, Camila Perez, Katherine Estrada, Xiomara Brioso-Rubio Gulf Coast: Tania Saade, Kristi Balavage, Danielle O'Connell Immokalee: Brenda Gutierrez, Maria Franco-Munguia, Yaresly Trejo Lely: Dennis Alas, Bailey Quinn Lorenzo Walker: Maritza Payan Naples: Nicholas Dudley, Michael Lopez, Brittany Hunter Palmetto Ridge: Nathan Andrus St. John Neumann: Christie Kuzma, Elba Campos The Club Pelican Bay: Pierce Bittner, David Lucks, Chris LaCivita

Make sure to check out our website! Photos from all of our events are posted online. www.thefoundersfundinc.org

Annual Scholarships Awards Reception

The 2011 Annual Scholarship Awards Reception was held at the Club Pelican Bay on May 3 with students, family members, high school counselors, benefactors, board members and sponsors in attendance.





scholars

Kay Drolet – Founders Fund Trustee, Diana Costa, Alexis Schlaupitz - Golden Gate High School



Gus Saade, Navla Saade, Tania Saade – Gulf Coast High School, Michelle Saade

Sue McNaghten, 2011 Founders Fund Chairman, Brenda Gutierrez, Immokalee High School, Yaresly Trejo, Immokalee High School, and Maria Franco-Munguia, Immokalee High School



Nathan Andrus - Palmetto Ridge High School, Ruth Andrus

SPONSORED SCHOLARS

As part of the "Named Scholarship" program, 12 students were presented with an inaugural Sponsored Scholar Award. These students, selected on academic merit, will receive a scholarship for \$2500, instead of the standard \$2000. Their names and sponsors are listed below: Margit Mikkelsen – Sponsored by Tim and Sharon Ubben Alina Winschel – Sponsored by the Brennan Foundation Sophia Kyle – Sponsored by John Levy and Gail Rothenberg Alexis Schlaupitz – Sponsored by Ruthann and Thomas McCarty

Xiomara Brioso-Rubio – Sponsored by Penelope and Schuyler Peck Tania Saade – Sponsored by Frank and Susan Morley Kristi Balavage – Sponsored by Preferred Travel

Dennis Alas – Sponsored by Lee and Graeme Dayton Bailey Quinn – Sponsored by Bob and Hanna Nevins Michael Lopez – Sponsored by a Friend of the Founders Nathan Andrus – Sponsored by Barbara and Wayne Kent Elba Campos – Sponsored by Colene and Larry Gutowsky



George Fox speaks to the





Enrique Alas, Dennis Alas - Lely High School, Diana Alas and Diana Alas



Hermes Payan, Maritza Pavan – Lorenzo Walker and Margoth Ospina



Siboney Penochet serves up the ice cream at the annual reception



Elena Kyle, Sofia Kyle **Community School**



Elizabeth Mikkelsen, Margit Mikkelsen - Baron Collier High School



Coe Gutowsky, Founders Fund Trustee, Christie Kuzma, St. John Neumann and Tom Becket

