



Fall 2021

NEWS & Views

LET'S GET BACK TO BUSINESS

We know 2020 and 2021 have created challenges for everyone and that this has been said many times before, but we are saying it's time to get back to business and back to our in-person events this year.

Over the past six months since our last newsletter, we have been busy at the Founders Scholarship Fund. We've been active in awarding scholarships, keeping in touch with our scholars, updating our website, and even creating new opportunities for fundraising. We hope you will join us in our up-coming endeavors as we help change the lives of students in Collier County.

Many of you were invited to watch our last student video which featured several scholarship alumni. After watching, many of you were touched by the testimonials of our alumni and graciously donated to the Fund. For that, we are most grateful.

If you have not watched the video, you can find it on the home page of the Founders Scholarship Fund's website. Please feel free to share the link with your families, friends and colleagues. As you will agree, our alumni are amazing, and their stories really touch our hearts and get to the root of our mission. As we continue to invest in the lives of local students, we know that lives will be changed all because of our generous donors.

Student video can be found at:

www.thefoundersfundinc.org/founder-fund-students/



ED BRENNAN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & BANQUET IS BACK!!

The 2022 event will be held in-person April 4 and 5, 2022!
We will be very mindful of CDC protocols for the event
and hopefully, all will go as planned.

MESSAGE FROM 2020/2021 CHAIRPERSON Adam Crescenzi



Dear Patrons, Sponsors and Friends,

As the fall season brings the refreshing colors of nature, the Founders Fund Inc. begins its 31st year of scholarship giving. I often wonder if the original Founders of Club Pelican Bay would have dreamed the Founders Scholarship Fund would award over \$5 million dollars to over 750 students the first 30 years.

In this season of Fall, Winter and Spring 2021/22, your Board of Trustees will be working diligently interviewing, selecting, and awarding scholarships to the most needy graduating students of Collier County High Schools as well as to Club Pelican Bay employees and children who are seeking to further their education in colleges or professional advancement.

The COVID pandemic has caused many serious issues for our society and especially our students. The Fund had to cancel its major fund-raising efforts with the 2020 Ed Brennan Memorial Banquet and Golf Tournament. But we are very pleased to announce we will be holding this event on April 4 and 5, 2022.

On behalf of the 120 students currently receiving our financial aid and your Board of Trustees, I want to Thank You for your generosity over the past two years during this unforeseen pandemic. Your support gave us the resources to award 31 scholarships of \$3000 per student per year for four years in our 30th year.

Look for your invitations in the mail or via email to our November 30 New Member Reception, as well as your invitation to the Ed Brennan Banquet and Golf Tournament.

HELP US CONTINUE TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE FOR OUR STUDENTS!

Thank you.



MISSION

The Founders Scholarship Fund of Club Pelican Bay has stayed true to its mission since 1991 — to provide financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training.

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**not a board member but is the Fund Administrator and Secretary of the Board*

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239-593-0124

foundersfund1@gmail.com

TheFoundersFundInc.org



**We've
Got
MAIL**

Our Scholars



Entering my final year at university is exciting and comes alongside so many new experiences. With the Founders Fund scholarship, I have been able to meet my college expenses and seek other opportunities, like my internship with the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland. I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to build myself as a scholar and future public health professional. Thank you,

Marcos Damian-Noyola - 2018 Scholarship Recipient
Bachelor's in Public Health at the University of Florida



I attended Lehigh University and majored in chemical engineering. I graduated this past May and have recently started working at Lummus Technology as an associate process engineer.

The Founders Scholarship Fund has been so integral in helping me get to where I am today. It allowed me the freedom to focus on my academics and get the most out of a quality education. Thank you for believing and supporting me.

Lisa Tseng - 2017 Scholarship Recipient

APR, Time Value of Money, VBA, Python, Linear Regression are some foundational concepts I've discovered and they've made such a pivotable impact on my outlook of the world, my resume, and in the exploitation of capabilities. Thanks to the direct support from the Founders Fund, I've been able to focus on maximizing my college experience, implementing course concepts in real-life scenarios, gaining professional development, and overall success beyond the American dreams I had originally formulated.

Thanks a million,

Isabel "Izzy" Hernandez-Marquez

*Accounting and Analytics & Informatics (Data Analytics CONC.) with a minor in Management
FGCU – Class of 2022*



2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BARRON COLLIER HIGH SCHOOL:

Magdiel Sanchez, Diego Aramayo,
Samantha Arie

COMMUNITY SCHOOL: Blade Kalikow

EVERGLADES HIGH: Alexis Hendrickson

GOLDEN GATE HIGH SCHOOL:

Luis Brandao, Lindsey Abellard, Eli Antoine,
Thais Casasola, Maidele Archelus,
Flore Louima

GULF COAST HIGH SCHOOL:

Walezka Abdala, Gabriella Garcia

IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL:

Emily Hernandez, Israel Estrada,
Elvis Velasquez-Morales, Geraldine Pierre

LELY HIGH SCHOOL: Dante Vecchio

LORENZO WALKER: Steven Tulus,
Nicksie Lordeus, Makensy Mentillo,
Joanna Brito, Moirah Remy

NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL: Stephanie Bird,
Michael Fredette, Carly Newmark, Chloe
Quintero

PALMETTO RIDGE HIGH: Natalie Solis

ST. JOHN NEUMANN: Kaitlyn Ryan,
Sydney Raza

CLUB PELICAN BAY (Employee):

Stacy Lee-Williams, Stela Ahmetaj

The Founders Scholarship Fund awarded 32 College Scholarships to Collier County Students

Since our last newsletter, college scholarships were awarded to 32 Collier County students by The Founders Scholarship Fund (FSF) during an online celebration on April 30. Soon-to-be high school grads, along with several parents and Founders Fund Board members, gathered via Zoom to celebrate and get acquainted during the hour-long event.

There were two surprises for the students during the celebration, the first was a special message of hope and encouragement given by a Founders Fund 2009 scholarship recipient, Yvenalie Louissaint. The second announcement was made by Adam Crescenzi, FSF Board Chair; he announced the board voted to increase the four-year scholarship from \$10,000 to \$12,000 which is a \$384,000 commitment to the incoming class of 2021.

Meg Tyre, Scholarship Committee Chair, introduced each student and asked them to speak about their college choice and area of study. The desired degrees and goals ranged from medical research and computer sciences to business management and law to name a few.

ABOUT the FUND

The Founders Scholarship Fund is a local 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that awards renewable scholarships to local students who have shown determination, academic achievements, and financial need to pursue a college education. Each student was to receive \$2,500 per year for up to four years so long as they maintain a 3.0 average, however with the increase, each student will receive \$3,000 per year. The scholarships are non-restrictive and are given to help students with college and post high-school educational expenses. Students receive the renewable scholarships with the agreement they are a full-time student and maintain a B average or better in their college studies.

Founded in 1991 by Club Pelican Bay golf members, the organization has awarded scholarships to over \$5 million to more than 750 students. Founders Fund Inc. is celebrating 30 years by in-creasing the scholarship to \$3000 per year for four years and for more than 30 students.

"In the 30-year history of the Founders Fund, the need for scholarship assistance has never been so great as it has been these past two graduating classes," said Adam Crescenzi, Board Chair for the Founders Scholarship Fund. "We are grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to award the scholarships and meet our obligations to over 100 students currently receiving the four-year renewable scholarships."

Funds needed to grant the scholarships are raised through a fundraising golf event held every other year, donations from Club members, and the generous support of local business sponsors. The fund-raising event was unable to be held in 2020, however donors stepped up and made this year's scholarships possible.

The Founders Scholarship Fund Celebrates



It all began in 1991 with a small group of golf members at Club Pelican Bay and now, the Founders Scholarship Fund has grown into a vital scholarship resource for Collier County students seeking a college education.



Rocky Caldwell, first Board Chair for the Founders Fund, speaking at the 2011 Student Luncheon at Club Pelican Bay

The Founders Fund, Inc. was named in honor of the founding golf members of Club Pelican Bay in 1991 and Club member Robert H. “Rocky” Caldwell was appointed to become the first Chairman of The Founders Fund. Seed money for the non-profit organization was made possible by reserve dollars left over from the building of the golf course. Instead of refunds, members voted to donate their dollars to establish the college scholarship program.

Appointed to the first Board of Directors were Edward J. Brennan, Jean Harford and Robert Lee. Lee, a founding member of the Club Board, represented the Club and acted as its liaison. On April 22, 1992, The Founders Fund, Inc. was organized as an official Not-for-Profit Florida Corporation and contributions had reached \$100,000 from the Club’s 476 members.

Originally, scholarships were to be awarded to employees and their children only but shortly after establishing the Fund, the board realized that there were many other deserving students in Collier County that could use financial assistance.

Club Pelican Bay members have a culture of philanthropy. Not only do they donate but more than 100 of their members have served as board trustees for the Founders Scholarship Fund over the past 30 years.

“We are proud to have been able to serve the community for these past 30 years and look forward to many more,” added Crescenzi.

The Fund is supported by donations from Club Pelican Bay members and local corporate sponsors. For more information about scholarships or sponsorships, contact Stacy Lee-Williams, Founders Scholarship Fund Director at 239-593-0124 or visit www.TheFoundersScholarshipFund.org.

A complete history of the Founders Fund can be found on the Founders Fund website.

★ ★ ★ GREAT NEWS ★ ★ ★

Founders Fund has been chosen to receive funds!

Preferred Travel of Naples has chosen the Founders Scholarship Fund to be the non-profit of choice for their 2022 TRAVEL SHOWCASE. Each year, the travel agency presents a travel event for their clients and travel enthusiasts at Club Pelican Bay and a local charity is chosen to receive 100% of the admission fee.

Due to the pandemic, the show for 2021 was not held but the event will be back this coming February.

Please **SAVE THE DATE**, Monday, February 7th and remember your ticket price will go directly to the Founders Fund and is tax-deductible. More information will be sent to you electronically as the details are finalized.

Presented by



Two event times offered 4:00 to 6:00 pm or 6:00 to 8:00 pm

ED BRENNAN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & BANQUET IS BACK!!

The Founders Fund has a long history and a very long running of the Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament & Banquet.

With an unforeseen gap in the event's frequency due to the pandemic, it is of utmost importance that we make this coming event our best ever.

The two-day event will be held on Monday and Tuesday - April 4 and 5 at Club Pelican Bay. With the help of the Club, plans are underway to create a wonderful event and the committee has been hard at work to ensure we have the safest and best. The next few months will be crucial for soliciting sponsors, gathering auction items and finalizing the plans.

The banquet with live and silent auctions will be held Monday night at the Club and the Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday. You will be receiving your invitation soon! Please watch for it as it will be electronic this year to save on postage and printing.

Our last event was held in 2018 and with a four-year gap, we will really need your help and support to make this event our best ever! PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Thank You

A special THANK YOU to the donors who made donations from July 2019 to July 2021. With your commitment to the Founders Fund mission, you have made scholarships available to local Collier County students who need a helping hand to secure a higher education.

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The Founders Scholarship Fund
707 Gulf Park Drive
Naples, FL 34108

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SAVE THE DATES



Travel Showcase
to benefit the
Founders
Scholarship Fund

TWO EVENT TIMES
OFFERED:

4:00 - 6:00 PM
or
6:00 - 8:00 PM



*Ed Brennan
Memorial Golf
Tournament
2022*

Play, sponsor
a hole, donate
auction items...

Get involved.
ASK US HOW!

Club Pelican Bay

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