



FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

— est. 1991 — CLUB PELICAN BAY —



Greetings!

My mother was a public school teacher until the age of 80. She instilled in me the belief that educating young people is vital to the strength of our society.

Founders Scholarship Fund embodies that belief by providing scholarships to deserving high school graduates who might not otherwise have the means to go to college. When I was invited to serve first as a

Trustee, and now as Chair of the Board of Trustees, my commitment to education came full circle.

In 1991, the original founders of the Scholarship Fund envisioned it as a lasting reflection of the generosity of the Club Pelican Bay membership. Their goal was for the Fund to become an essential part of the Club's philosophy and social fabric, supported by every member. [You can learn more about Our History here.](#)

That vision continues today and is supported by a board of 17 trustees. Each trustee is a member of our Club. It's a hands-on board made up of dedicated individuals who share a deep commitment to education. We've included a **2025 Snapshot** in this newsletter to help convey the impact that this Scholarship Fund has on local students and our CPB staff.

Our primary fundraising event, the biennial **Ed Brennan Memorial Banquet and Golf Tournament**, will take place next year. However, your support is

needed every year to sustain our scholarship mission. As we are nearing the end of 2025, I'd like to remind you that **Giving Tuesday** falls on **December 2nd**. Please consider including **Founders Scholarship Fund** in your year-end giving plans.

For all that support our mission — *Creating Opportunities. Fulfilling Dreams.* — we thank you.

With gratitude,

Michael Balgord
Board Chair

GIVING TUESDAY

We hope you will include Founders Scholarship Fund (FSF) in your plans for Giving Tuesday or your year-end charitable contributions. Donations are welcomed and appreciated throughout the year, every year.

While many individuals make charitable donations through a Donor Advised Fund, or as qualified charitable deductions from an IRA, tax practitioners are encouraging individuals who itemize deductions to consider accelerating donations into 2025. This is because of tax law changes beginning in 2026 which include:

- Itemized charitable deductions will be subject to a new floor of 0.5% of adjusted gross income (AGI). Therefore, the equivalent of 0.5% of AGI is a permanently lost deduction in 2026 and beyond. For example, if AGI is \$300,000, the first \$1,500 of charitable contributions will not be tax-deductible.

- For taxpayers in the top 37% tax bracket (\$768,781 for married filing joint returns), the tax benefit from all itemized deductions, including charitable contributions, will be capped at 35%.

FSF doesn't give tax advice. You may wish to consult your tax advisor to determine if these provisions apply to your situation. Please contact Stacy, our Fund Director, if you have any questions about how to send funds to FSF.

CLICK HERE
TO
DONATE ONLINE

Checks can be mailed to:

Founders Scholarship Fund
707 Gulf Park Drive
Naples FL 34108



FOUNDERS
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND

2025 SNAPSHOT

35

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
including 3 from CPB



\$840,000

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
AWARDED

AVERAGE SCHOLAR
FAMILY INCOME

\$42,000

lowest \$11K, highest \$89K



111

SCHOLARS



SCHOLARS
CURRENTLY SUPPORTED
including 14 CPB Scholars

93%

ENROLLED IN FLORIDA
COLLEGES



40
CPB MEMBER MENTORS
helping 62 Scholars





Ed Brennan Memorial
**BANQUET &
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Monday, April 13 & Tuesday, April 14

Want to get involved? Ask us how!



Creating Opportunities. Fulfilling Dreams.

Mission

For over 30 years, Founders Scholarship Fund of Club Pelican Bay has stayed true to its mission — to provide financial assistance to young people from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training.

FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

707 Gulf Park Drive, Naples FL 34108

(239) 593-0124

Website

Email