

Teacher and Support Employee of the Year Celebration

We are excited to announce that the Golden Apple Teacher and Support Employee of the Year Awards Celebration will be held on **January 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm**. The 2020 event will be held at a new venue, the Holy Trinity Event Center. This uplifting event brings together community and business leaders to recognize the contribution of our amazing Charlotte County Public School teachers and support employees. This program also serves as the Charlotte Local Education Foundation's largest fundraiser for Take Stock in Children scholarships. This event has become a favorite of mine. Every year, I look forward to meeting the nominees and watching their video presentations which showcase their leadership, excellence, and admiration for their students and co-workers.

More than 300 dignitaries, colleagues, family, and friends will be on hand to celebrate with nominees on this very special evening.

Every year, nominations are made by students, principals, teachers, administrators, and the public for the Charlotte County Schools' Teacher and Support Employee of the Year award.

The Teacher of the Year Award recognizes and honors the contributions of outstanding classroom teachers who have demonstrated a superior capacity to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds. The Support

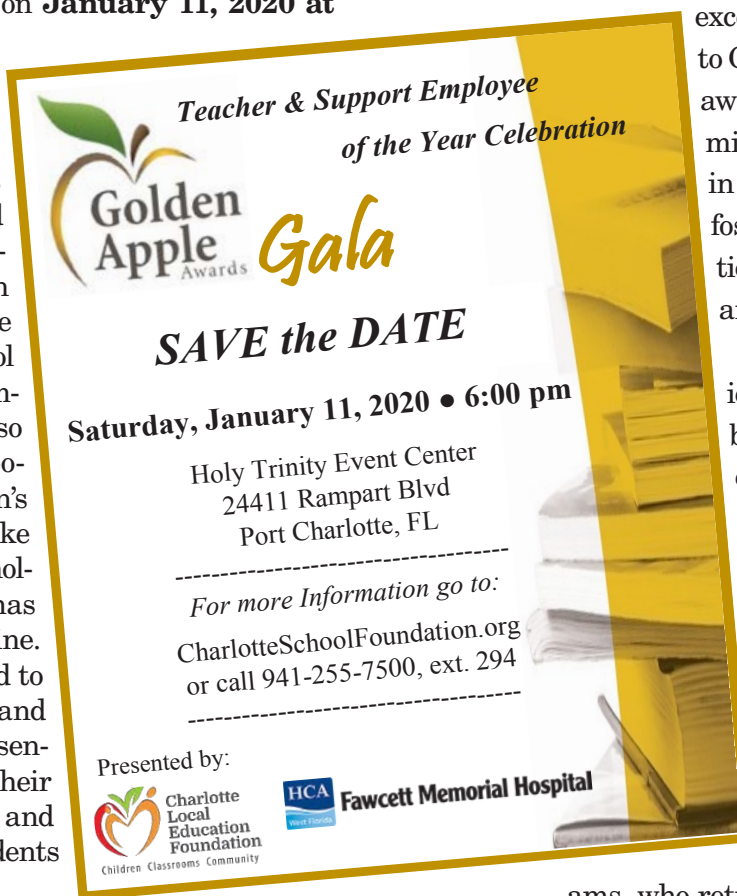
Employee of the Year Award recognizes outstanding support employees who have made unique and exceptional contributions to CCPS. Recipients of this award demonstrate commitment and leadership in their field of work and foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and in the community.

We have three dynamic volunteers who will be leading this year's event. Retired CCPS employee and CLEF Board member Cathy Bohling served on last year's committee keeping the program moving behind the scenes. We are also pleased to have CLEF

volunteers, Lois Adams, who retired after 39 years with General Dynamics Electric Boat as Sr. Specialist in Program Management, and recent retiree, Kris Grein presiding over this ever-important event. After working with Cathy, Kris, and Lois, I feel confident in passing the baton.

Virtual tickets will go on sale Friday, November 8, 2019. The cost of a ticket for a CCPS employee will be \$30.00 and the general public ticket will be \$50.00. Nominees may bring one guest at no charge. Tickets for friends and family of the nominees will be \$30.00 each, with a limit up to six tickets. Virtual tickets can be purchased online at www.charlotteschoolfoundation.org or by calling 941-255-7500 ext. 294 for more information.

Lynn Pogue, CLEF Board Vice President



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A Message from the Director

Thirty years ago a handful of individuals came together to form an organization that would support and promote “scientific, educational, and charitable” programs here in Charlotte County. The idea was that with community support, they could make possible a wider range of educational offerings for students and adults, ultimately enriching our community.

Fast forward to the present day, Charlotte Local Education Foundation is still working in partnership with the community to advance student success in a variety of ways. You’ll find in this issue, information on our work to recognize excellence in our teachers and support employees. We also work with our CCPS partners to find grants that will fund special projects in the classroom, to support art, literacy initiatives, STEM education, and more.

The work we may be most proud of is our Take Stock in Children (TSIC) program. Making a multi-year commitment to academically qualified students from low income families, we’ve found a “winning recipe.” We bring together mentoring services, college advocacy, and emphasis on good grades, attendance, and behaviors. When these elements are combined, we have a program that changes the lives of all students and mentors involved. It has been proven effective year after year. There are numerous studies demonstrating the power of mentoring children, and we know it has a profound effect on the mentors as well.

Interested in changing a life? We’d love to hear from you. Please call or email Sara Wierhake at sara.wierhake@yourcharlotteschools.net or 941-255-7500, ext. 294.

Sara Wierhake, Executive Director

ASK US ABOUT PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES . . . contact Sara Wierhake at Sara.Wierhake@yourcharlotteschools.net or call 941-255-7500, ext. 294

CLEF Board President’s Message

The bells are ringing, our students are back in school, and our teachers are back in their classrooms. As the school year begins, both our students and teachers are returning to their classrooms with a full complement of supplies for a productive and successful year, thanks to the many individuals and businesses who contributed materials and monies to the Charlotte Local Education Foundation’s Annual Back to School Supply Drive initiative. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club at their location in Port Charlotte, we distributed nearly 800 bags of school supplies to students. Many thanks to Debra Brown, of Wells Fargo Bank, who brought a team of volunteers that evening to assist with the supply giveaway. The ABATE Motorcycle Club roared up to the Teacher Supply Depot on a Sunday afternoon loaded with materials to restock the Depot for our teach-

ers. Also, R.O.A.M Motorcycle Club came by the Depot to donate supplies as well. Some of the teacher supplies were given to the Chamber of Commerce to distribute to some of our other community partners to give to new teachers at the New Teacher Breakfast they sponsor each year. On behalf of the Foundation, I sincerely want to thank all those involved in this Annual Back to School Supply Drive, for without your commitment and your generosity many of our students and teachers might not have begun the school year fully equipped for success. Again, many thanks to all those individuals and businesses who have once again, assisted the Charlotte Local Education Foundation in pursuit of its mission of Connecting Children, Classrooms, and the Community.

Bob Pietrasanta, Board President

On behalf of the CLEF Board and staff, please join us in welcoming new Board members Dan Ambrose and Cathy Bohling!

We NEED Mentors!

Testimonials

"I mentor because of my USAF experience. For 30 years, I watched young men and women enter the Armed Forces, some with little more than a high school diploma - some did it for patriotic reasons and some to get out of Dodge. All benefitted from the structured environment where more senior NCOs were

trainers, supervisors, role models, and mentors. High school students obviously don't have the same rigorous environment of active military duty, but everyone benefits when mentors, regardless of their background, volunteer to invest their time developing and motivating the next generation." - Bud Bell

Every mentee is different in personality, character, and ability, but they have all taught me to enjoy and appreciate the enormous untapped potential in our young people, and with just some guidance, encouragement, and listening, it has been rewarding to see that potential bloom and flower - a real investment in our future leaders.

- Sushila Cherian

Volunteers Matter

My name is Kris Grein and I am a recent retiree. With so many hours of my week now completely free to spend anyway I like, I quickly decided I wanted to give back in some meaningful way and volunteer. I was fortunate enough to learn about the Take Stock in Children program, which provides college scholarships to those who fulfill its requirements. A key part of this program is the role mentors can play in helping to form the life of a young promising student. I am hopeful that this fall I will be selected to begin mentoring a student; helping that individual every step of the way. In my youth, I would have benefited greatly from having a professional career minded woman help me to navigate the choices

and paths along the way through high school. In the meantime, I am able to enjoy the behind the scene opportunity by volunteering in the CLEF office. We are currently in preparation for the January dinner and awards ceremony for Teacher of the Year. I am grateful to be able to help in the planning of this incredibly important event. The CLEF office has a small staff and a large mission. Orchestrating the Teacher of the Year event is just one activity that has so many parts, for instance the outreach effort to attract sponsors is key to the ability to provide Charlotte County students with these college scholarships. In short, serving as a volunteer has proven to be very rewarding, and I highly recommend it.



Thank you to our 2019 Back to School Supply Drive Sponsors and Volunteers

CLEF is truly grateful to all those who graciously collected supplies, sponsored, and donated to the 2019 Back to School Supply Drive! Thank you: ABATE of Florida, Inc., A T & T, Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County, Charlotte State Bank and Trust, Classy Sassy Girlfriends, Copperfish Books, Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Fifth/Third Bank, Kiwanis of Port Charlotte, Sunrise Foundation, Inc., MonarchDIRECT, Elaine Psaros and Melissa Furst, R.O.A.M., Tom Segur, Suncoast Credit Union, and Wells Fargo.



Welcome New CLEF Staff Member CarolAnn Popovich



CarolAnn Popovich grew up in Charlotte County and is a proud member of the first graduating class of PCHS. CarolAnn earned an undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico and an M.S. and Ed.S. from University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She is currently working on her dissertation for a doctorate degree from Concordia University. CarolAnn has over 25 years of diverse education and nonprofit experience from various positions that include: educator, counselor, advisor, administrator, program developer, and grant writer.



Charlotte Local Education Foundation



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941-255-7500, ext. 297
charlotteschoolfoundation.org

Connecting Children, Classrooms & Community



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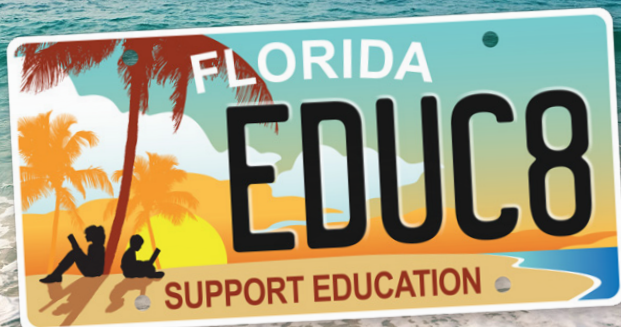
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The Charlotte Education Foundation is looking for volunteers for light duty office and mentors for students. A background check is required. Contact: Sara Wierhake at 941-255-7500, ext. 294 or Sara.Wierhake@yourcharlotteschools.net.

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

thank you



to the **10,734** Florida volunteers
that serve as TSIC Mentors
and have given **2 million+**
mentor hours to our scholars

