

Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!

Official Achievement Academy Charter School Newsletter

Big Plans, Big Dreams

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We are excited to share the news that in August of 2007 Achievement Academy purchased nearly 16 acres of property in south Lakeland! This is the first step in realizing our dream of a new “state of the art facility”.

Expanding and offering services to more children and their families has long been a dream of Achievement Academy and now we are actually ready to move forward with that dream. Our future plans are to combine all of our existing sites into one outstanding school. This means that all of our students and their families will benefit from the efficient and consistent use of the time, talent and financial resources of the Achievement Academy. Just as exciting, is that along with our expanding size we will also be expanding our enrollment. Finally we will be able to serve many more children from a waiting list that gets longer every year.

This is only the beginning. Much has yet to be determined and much is still unknown, but all of it is exciting. A great deal of work is still ahead of us, but it is certainly worth the effort. We are dreaming and planning BIG! “Building Brighter Futures” is what Achievement Academy is doing. Please keep us in mind as we proceed with plans to partner with our community to make this worthwhile project happen.

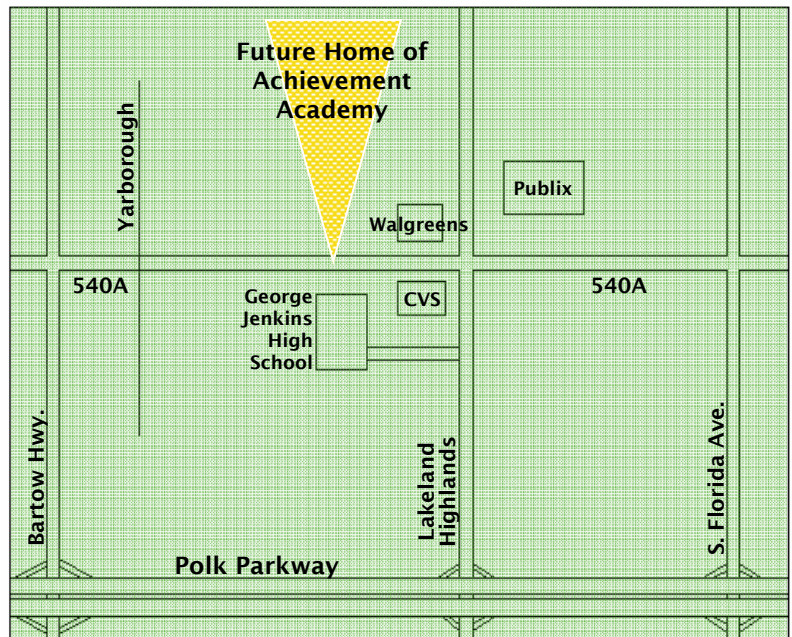


Paula Sullivan, Director

**3rd Annual  
5K Run/Walk  
Saturday, Feb. 23  
Mary Holland  
Park in Bartow**

Everyone is invited to this fun filled event sponsored by the Junior Service League of Bartow. All proceeds will benefit the Achievement Academy.

If you would like to participate contact Marcia Brooks (Junior Service League of Bartow) at 863-533-0028 or Stacy Williams (Achievement Academy) at 863-683-6504.



Don't forget to check out our new website [achievementacademy.com](http://achievementacademy.com)

# Golf Tournament is a Huge Success!

## Thank You to our Special Holiday Helpers

The Joy FM  
 Lighthouse Ministries  
 Higgenbotham Auctioneers  
 Butch Durrence with TECO/Polk Power & Friends  
 FedEx Employees  
 Lakeland Margarita Society  
 Grove Park Christian Church

## Our Newest Champions for Children



### Silver

UPS  
 G & L Logistics, LLC  
 Jones Edmunds



### Bronze

C. Hayne  
 Herndon & Co., Inc.  
 Summit Consulting, Inc.  
 MIDFLORIDA  
 Federal Credit Union

On Friday, October 26, 2007, more than 130 players from all over central Florida gathered to help the Achievement Academy by playing in our 8th annual "Chip-in for Children" golf tournament at the Eaglebrooke Golf & Country Club. Each year gets bigger, better and this year was no exception as the event raised over \$27,000.

This year's tournament had more teams, prizes, auction items, food and certainly more fun than ever before. The overall tournament was won by the team of Al Hanif, Eddie Freeland, John Tillis and Steve Sharp. Each player from the winning team received four rounds of golf from Mystic Dunes.

One of the highlights this year was a live auction called by professional auctioneer Donald Kirkland from Higgenbotham Auctioneers. There was a large variety of items for auction from beach vacations to Cobra golf clubs to a 3-day stay at the Black Mesa Golf Resort in Arizona.

We want to extend a sincere "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteers, players and sponsors alike. It takes many involved

people and without your help this event would never have been such a huge success. We look forward to seeing you ALL again next year.



L to R  
**Otis Birdsong,**  
 Tournament Sponsor & former NBA Player  
**Jason Wozniak,**  
 Federated Insurance, Tournament Director  
 & 2007-08 Board Member



## Special Volunteers

It really does take a lot of help to pull off an event like our 8th Annual "Chip-In For Children" Golf Tournament and we want to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped this year.

There is one group we especially want to thank. A special group of Achievement Academy students and their siblings came that day to help and welcome everyone with big smiles.

*Thank You!*

## Outstanding Community Support

Mark C. & Lynn D. Hollis Fund within The Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland

Glen W. and Hazelle Paxson Morrison Foundation

Publix Super Markets Inc. & Friends of the Industry

Camp Rotary Foundation, Inc.

MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union

North Lakeland Kiwanis

Citrus Center Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Lakeland

Victory Church

Dan Klein

Brenda Frisby, Sandra Slaughter & her sewing group

Jeanne Bacon

Cathy Holman

The Board of County Commissioners & IT Department Head, Ed Wolf





## She's One-in-a-Million!

Susan Shipe, lead teacher in Lakeland, recently received her National Board Certification in Exceptional Student Education. She joins an elite group of teachers.

Fewer than 2% of all U.S. teachers are Nationally Board certified and even fewer attain it on their first try like she did. The process of obtaining this certification is so demanding that only four of ten teachers pass on their first try and it can take up to three years to complete.

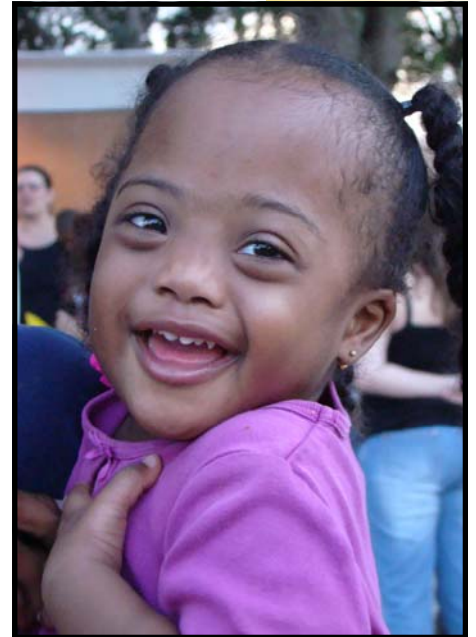
Susan represents the best of what teaching can be. Ask anyone who they think is most deserving of this recognition, and without hesitation, she would be chosen. We always knew Susan was outstanding. THIS JUST PROVES IT!

## The "Little Girl That Could"

Jordyn, was born on September 30, 2004. The birth of a baby is typically a life altering experience, but it is greatly magnified when the doctor tells you that your new baby has Down Syndrome. In the midst of this realization, Jordyn's parents chose to believe that she would accomplish all that the doctors said she never would. So they began the search for guidance in helping Jordyn reach her full potential.

Achievement Academy first became involved with Jordyn through an Early Intervention Specialist who regularly went to her home to offer comfort and support to the entire family as she shared how the services we offer could greatly benefit Jordyn. Soon she became a full-time student at the Achievement Academy. Here is where Jordyn's parents found people who saw the potential in their child and worked lovingly and diligently to bring out the best in her. A dedicated staff to help children become all that they can be. That is what Achievement Academy does every single day. Jordyn and her classmates also benefit from the individualized therapies they receive—physical, occupational and speech therapy. These are a constant and very expensive reality in the life of a child with special needs and *Achievement Academy provides these services at no cost to their families*. So each child receives all the instruction and therapy they need in a loving and supportive environment where independence is encouraged.

Achievement Academy's motto is "We believe, they achieve." Just as this school believes, Jordyn continues to achieve. She is the "Little Girl that Could." Would you consider giving to this school to help other children with special needs achieve their potential? Help them to know that they, too, can be little boys and little girls who "could" through your generous donation. Ultimately, Jordyn, her classmates, and the community will be very thankful you did.



**Yes**, I want to support Achievement Academy, Inc. and be a part of creating brighter futures for children with special needs and their families. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and mail in the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.achievementacademy.com](http://www.achievementacademy.com)

The Achievement Academy, Inc. is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization. In addition to being a United Way agency, we are also accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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## 2007-08 Board Members

**President**  
Janice Jones

**Immediate Past President**  
Luis Unda

**1st Vice President**  
Randy Hollen

**2nd Vice President**  
Adam Airth

**Secretary**  
Mark Miller

**Treasurer**  
John Scott

**Members**  
Lesila Bennett  
Steve Earley  
George Flack  
Eneix Frankenburger, III  
Kristie Hatcher-Bolin  
Chris Mier  
Doris Trohn  
Tony Turbeville  
Jason Wozniak

## Congratulations

**Stacy Robinson,**  
Teacher of the Year

and

**Jo Ann Smith,**  
Non-Instructional  
Employee of the Year

Each was nominated by their colleagues to represent Achievement Academy at the Polk County Association of Charter Schools Award Ceremony on May 8, 2008.

**Paula Sullivan,**  
Director

is a proud Grandma again.  
Lily Ruth, 8lbs. 1oz. was born on  
January 23, 2008 to  
Paula's daughter Wendy and her  
husband Matt Melton.

## Dates to Remember:

**Student/Teacher Holiday**  
Monday, February 18, 2008

**Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008

**Annual Junior Service League of  
Bartow's 5K Run**  
Saturday, February 23, 2008

**29th Annual Pro-Am  
Tennis Tournament**  
March 7, 8 and 9, 2008

There will be a Kick off BBQ dinner on Friday at 6:30pm. The tennis tournament will begin the next day at the Lakeland Yacht Club and Grasslands Country Club. Final rounds of tennis will be played on Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend. Contact Stacy Williams, Mktg. Director at the Achievement Academy (863-683-6504) for more information.