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Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!

A Year of Amazing Achievements

By: Randy Hollen, President, Board of Directors



Ahhhh, Summer time. That means vacations, beach, hot weather, afternoon rains. It is also a good time to reflect on the past year at Achievement Academy. It was yet another successful year for the school as we celebrated 54 years of serving families in Polk County. Serving families is what we are all about. Yes, it's about the children first and foremost, but when you watch the families arrive every day at our three schools and experience a graduation ceremony, it is very easy to see that we serve families. We are so thankful for what the Achievement Academy children and families teach "us" every day. They teach us about possibilities, determination, and daily progress, breaking through limitations and facing new challenges every day.

As a board, we focus on those same skills as we strive to give our wonderful children the best we can offer because, quite simply, our families deserve it. Our capital campaign made significant strides this year in our goal to raise \$6 million to build our new school. Staff and board

have made numerous personal calls on many in the community to tell the story and enlist their help to make the dream a reality. All along the way we have made new friends through our fundraising efforts. Significant progress has been made, but we have many miles yet to go. We are confident enough in our story and the generosity of our communities to continue moving forward in our efforts with the same determination and daily progress we see every day in our children.



She is "Simply the Best"!

Congratulations to Cindi Parker-Pearson, Program Director who just graduated from Nova University with a Masters in Educational Leadership. For three years, Cindi has worked hard and graduated with a 4.0 – high honors. We are all so proud of her accomplishments. Cindi deeply appreciates all who helped make this dream possible for her. She says, "I could not have done this without the endless support and understanding from our wonderful staff and Board. Paula's relentless optimism and belief in me was not only the catalyst but a source of strength throughout this lengthy process and I will always be grateful for that. And to my son, Trenton,

thanks for putting up with my schedule and my need to always tell you to "Hurry up, we've got to go" as well as your acquired acceptance of eating microwavable food."

In spite of all the unexpected challenges such as returning to the classroom to teach for the last six months while also performing her Program Director responsibilities, it has all been worth it. The hard work certainly paid off! Congratulations!

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Luis Unda
Jason Wozniak

Dates to Remember:

Teachers Return to School
Monday, August 2

Staff Returns to School
Wednesday, August 4

Student Orientation
Friday, August 6, 11am-3pm

First Day of School
Monday, August 9

Open House
Tuesday, Aug. 31, 6:00pm

School Holiday
Monday, Sept. 6

Fall Break
September 20 - 24, 2010

Executive Committee Mtg.
Wednesday, Aug. 11, 11:30am

Board Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 17, 6:00pm

Thank You!

To our Community Partner

We received generous funding for the
"Children Thrive with Therapy"
grant and
"Tools for Success" grant.

UPCOMING EVENT

"Chip-In" for Children Golf Tournament
Coming October 15, 2010
at Eaglebrooke Golf & Country Club

Become a FAN
and follow us on



Don't forget to
check out our website
www.achievementacademy.com

Presenting... The Graduating Class of 2010!



Charlie



Joseph



Dillon



Clayton



Ashton



Jewel



Christina



Rhett



Adam



Aliyha



Emily



Joseph



Brooklyn



Joshua



Genesis



Michael



Miracle

This year's graduation program was held on Friday, June 4th at the Bartow Civic Center. It was an exciting evening as we celebrated the successes of our graduates. The theme for the event was "School Days" and featured many displays of artwork and projects that the students created throughout the year.

What a privilege it has been to be a part of helping each student grow to their fullest potential. We are so proud of all they have accomplished!



A Chance Meeting By: Tracey Porter

Joshua Robert Porter was born on October 12, 2003 in Monroe, MI. He began developing well; he loved to be held, always smiled at others and for pictures. Joshua met all of his developmental goals until he was about 12-14 months old. Something changed and the baby that would gaze into your eyes, smile, and laugh slipped away.

We knew something wasn't right, but pediatricians would simply say not to worry, that boys developed later than girls and that he was "just a late talker". When Joshua was about 18 months old we moved to Florida. He began receiving speech therapy and it was then that we were told that he had severe speech apraxia (difficulty transmitting the speech message from his brain to his mouth) and developmental delays. Joshua would receive help from "Early Steps" until the age of 3. Then we placed him in a public

preschool program, which proved to be a very negative experience. We chose to remove him from the situation and began to pray for another school.

An unexpected door was opened when my mom and I went to Macy's where the Achievement Academy just happened to be holding a fundraiser that very day. We met Stacy Williams and began to talk about the school and explained to her that our Joshua was 3 years old and could not talk. She gave me a brochure and explained about the programs available at Achievement Academy. As soon as I got home, I immediately called the school and Joshua was placed on the waiting list and we prayed that he would get in. In January of 2006, we received "the call"; there was an opening! We were "in" and we knew this was the right place for Joshua.

During his first year at the Achievement Academy, he was further diagnosed with apraxia of the entire body and mild autistic tendencies. This caused him to have low muscle tone, fine motor delays, oral motor delays, expressive and receptive speech delays and delays with motor planning. While attending the



school, he has received exceptional care. His extraordinary teachers helped ensure that he would reach his goals. Joshua received one-on-one, specialized Speech and Occupational therapy and most importantly he was given love each day. Our son would not be where he is today if it were not for the school. The Achievement Academy has made a world of difference in our lives. Although Joshua is still unable to communicate with expressive speech, his cognitive and receptive abilities have developed appropriately.

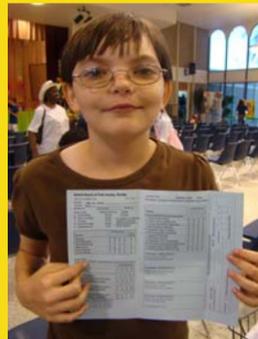
Joshua graduated this year after spending four years at Achievement Academy. It is with mixed emotions that we have to say good-bye. As he goes on to another chapter in his life we pray God will put him in another place that will help him to continue to develop and grow into a young man. Again we say, "Thank you Achievement Academy for helping make Josh who he is today and most of all *for giving him a voice.*"



Finally, a Voice of His Own

In February of 2010 the Achievement Academy, along with the Kiwanis Club of Winter Haven gave Joshua the most precious gift... his own Augmentative Communication Device. This gives Joshua the opportunity to communicate in all areas of life; he has been given a voice.

Quite an Achievement!



Amy with her great report card!

"When Amy was born doctors told me there was no hope, she was going to be a vegetable. Because of the help she received from birth all the way through age 6 at the Achievement Academy, Amy is now doing wonderful. She just graduated 5th grade with great grades" said Kathy, (Amy's mom).

Accomplishments on the Field



Many of Achievement Academy's students, graduates and Board members participate in Lakeland City Baseball's Challenger Division that began in 2007. Board members, Jason Wozniak and Luis Unda help to coach the teams. The Challenger Division was established in 1991 by Little League as a separate division of Little League Baseball to enable boys and girls with physical and mental disabilities, ages 5-18, to enjoy the game of baseball.

Each Challenger Division player is accompanied by a buddy, who can be a parent, sibling, friend or just someone wanting to help the players have fun and enjoy the game. If you enjoy children and baseball this may be a great program for you to get involved in.

To find out more or to get involved with the Challenger League check out their website www.lakelandcitybaseball.com



Donate online at our secure website: www.achievementacademy.com or detach and mail the form shown below.

Achievement Academy

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Donations may be made by check, credit card or billed. Visa or MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

CCV#: _____

Amt. Enclosed: _____

Please Bill: _____

I pledge at the following giving level:

___ \$1,000 + Visionary ___ \$999-500 Inspiration ___ \$499-250 Discover

___ \$249-100 Exploration ___ \$99-1 Foundation

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