



Lakeland Campus
716 E. Bella Vista Street
Lakeland, FL 33805
Fax: 863-688-9292

Bartow Campus
695 E. Summerlin Street
Bartow, FL 33830
Fax: 863-534-0798

Winter Haven Campus
2211 28th Street NW
Winter Haven, FL 33880
Fax: 863-968-5016

Phone (All Campuses):
863-683-6504

www.AchievementAcademy.com

John Burton, Executive Director
Cindi Parker-Pearson, Principal

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CELEBRATING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

60 Years of Achieving the Dream



Former student, Damal (center) and his mother, Essie, stop by to say hello to some of Damal's former teachers and staff. (L-R: Ms. Connie, Physical Therapist; Ms. Laurie, Early Interventionist; Damal; Ms. Susan, ESE Teacher; Essie and Ms. Cindi, Principal.

It all began in 1955 with a group of parents who had a dream -- a place in Polk County that provided education, therapies and services for their children with cerebral palsy. Remember, it wasn't until 1974 that federal law mandated a free, appropriate public education to all children, regardless of disability. The school opened in Lakeland in 1956 as **United Cerebral Palsy** serving both children and young adults. Many hours of volunteer work were required to keep the Center operating with the Junior Welfare League providing a full-time volunteer. The main building at the Lakeland campus was completed in 1967, and a poolside addition completed in 1975. As more children with other developmental delays and disabilities were welcomed, the organization disaffiliated with United Cerebral Palsy and became **Child Development Center of Polk County, Inc. (CDC)** in 1987. As the need for services and space continued to grow, the pool was filled in and the two buildings joined in 1989. In 1997, the Child Development Center's application to become a Charter School was approved and in 2004 the name was changed to **Achievement Academy**. The Lakeland Campus expanded again in 2013, adding 5 new classrooms, and 3 new therapy rooms.

Meanwhile, a satellite classroom was opened in Winter Haven in the early 1980s using donated space. A permanent home was finally established in 1999 when a building was purchased, thanks to a generous donation from Bill and Gloria McIntee. Classes began at the McIntee Center later that same year. In 1984, a satellite classroom was opened in Bartow, also using donated space in area churches. Again, thanks to a generous donation by Mrs. W. F. Peacock, who donated her late husband's medical building, classes began in Bartow's newly renovated Peacock Center in 1993.

Today Achievement Academy Charter School serves 157 students at its three campuses in Lakeland, Bartow and Winter Haven. In addition to the Charter School, Achievement Academy has served thousands of children and families in their homes since 1997 through our early intervention program. Thanks to United Way, the program continues today, serving hundreds of children and families each year, as the Birth To Three Program.

Aside from the bricks and mortar, what we are most proud of at Achievement Academy are the teachers, therapists, early interventionists and staff who have passionately served our students and families these past 60 years. Many current staff have dedicated over 10 years ~ but all willingly and joyfully carry the dream that the original group of parents had some 60 years ago. It is with gratitude and appreciation that we recognize retired Executive Director, Paula Sullivan, and former teacher, now Principal, Cindi Parker-Pearson, who have been instrumental in communicating the vision and implementing the dream over the last 30 years. For them, it has always been "all about the children," and that message continues to be shared.



The following current staff have dedicated 10 or more years to Achievement Academy. Thank you — You have made a difference!

Debra Stephens—34 years
Becky Jacklin—33 years
Cindi Parker-Pearson—28 years
Connie Banfield—25 years
Jill Bartley—20 years
Susan Shipe—20 years
Stacey Robinson—18 years
Laurie Turner—18 years
Fran Phillips—16 years

Tammy Bringger—15 years
Joanne Jones—13 years
Destiny Wimberley—13 years
Ginger Welch—12 years
Patti Miller—11 years
Deborah Sulsona—11 years
Lisa Sharp—10 years
Jennifer Young—10 years



Did you know . . . Achievement Academy has a Wish List? Items on the wish list are hand-selected by our teachers and therapists to help students reach their developmental goals. For more information, please visit our website and click on the "Wish List" button.



2015-2016 Board Members

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Thank You!

To the following donors and community partners

- Denis L. Fontaine Foundation, Inc.
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- GiveWell Community Foundation
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- Hall Communications — Central FL's "Big 4" Radio Stations
- ◆
- Harper Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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- Glenn W. & Hazelle Paxson Morrison Foundation
- ◆
- Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.

Interested in taking a tour of our campus?
Please call 863-683-6504 to schedule an appointment.

Dates to Remember

- Teacher Work Day / Student Holiday**
October 19, 2015
- 60th Anniversary Open House**
October 27, 2015
- (Holiday) Veterans' Day**
November 11, 2015
- Big CUP Golf Tournament!**
November 16, 2015
- Thanksgiving Break**
November 23—27, 2015
- Winter Break**
December 21, 2015—January 1, 2016
- Executive Committee Meetings**
November 9, 2015
December 7, 2015
- Board Meetings**
October 20, 2015 (Annual Meeting)
November 17, 2015



www.facebook.com/PolkAchievementAcademy

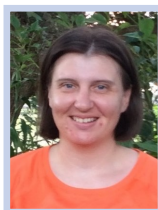


@achieveacad

Check out our Website at www.AchievementAcademy.com

~ Where Brighter Futures Begin ~

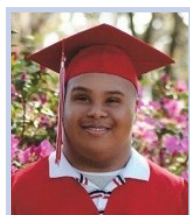
Celebrating . . . Former Students



"Kaitlin was a graduate of the Child Development Center, Class of 1989. While in 12th grade, Kaitlin attended a Learning Life Skills program at Florida Southern College where she received a culinary certificate. She now uses her training daily, planning and preparing family meals. Kaitlin also works a part-time job with Consumer-Directed Care Plus as a caretaker." **Kaitlin's aunt, Destiny**



"Caleb, now 30, was in the graduating class of 1991 at the Child Development Center. His teacher was Cindi Parker-Pearson. Caleb has excelled in Special Olympics where he participates in running, weight-lifting and basketball. Caleb, along with his mentor, Dave, runs in several major 5K runs throughout the year. He has participated in the annual Achievement Academy Golf Tournament for the last 10 years." **Caleb's aunt, Destiny**



"Today, Damal is 21 years old. Achievement Academy helped Damal get the jump start he needed. While at Achievement Academy he received physical, occupational and speech therapy. Achievement Academy is the best school in Polk County!" **Damal's mom, Essie**



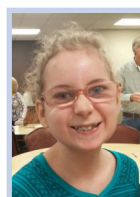
"We feel lucky that after the premature birth of our daughter, Natalie, there was a local agency where she could receive much needed early intervention and therapies. Achievement Academy not only provided those services free of charge to our daughter, but we also benefitted from the support of other families we met there going through similar circumstances, who we maintain friendships with still today! Natalie is now a senior in high school with plans to attend college next Fall. Thank you to the wonderful staff at Achievement Academy for helping us navigate the world of disability in those early formative years!" **Natalie's mom, Ginger**

If you would like to share your personal story of how Achievement Academy has helped you, please contact:

Stacy Williams at 863-683-6504 or Stacy@AchievementAcademy.com



"Happy 60th anniversary to Achievement Academy! My son Matthew is now 16 years old. He attended Achievement Academy from the age of 2 to 6. It was an absolutely wonderful learning experience. He loved his teachers and therapists and still talks about them to this day. I wish that we could have stayed there for his entire school career!" **Matthew's mom, Laura**



"When Erin first started at Achievement Academy it was scary and I thought it was the hardest day that I would ever have. The day Erin graduated and we had to leave Achievement Academy was actually the worst day ever. The structured education, one-on-one therapies and unconditional love she received there has been unmatched. Today, Erin is 14 and is involved in Out of the Box theatre and is in Special Olympics cheerleading." **Erin's mom, Teresa**



"Achievement Academy provided an integral foundation for Megan to succeed in life at an early age. Not only did she receive the necessary therapies (physical, occupational and speech), but she also learned educational basics that prepared her for school. Megan is now 14 and participates in Special Olympics events such as bowling, soccer, and basketball. She has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society as an honorary member at her middle school for her academic excellence. She has blossomed into a young lady and we will forever be grateful for the service, commitment, and love extended to our family from Achievement Academy." **Megan's mom, Jaime**



"Benjamin, now 13, was a 2008 graduate of Achievement Academy. Benjamin is now in 6th grade, attending a public school that has a hearing-impaired unit. He has also found his love for horses at a local riding academy and rides for therapy. He has competed the last 2 years in the Path Challenge Show earning several awards. Benjamin also participates in Special Olympics, running the quarter-mile relay." **Benjamin's mom, Destiny**

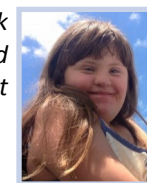
~ Our Mission ~

Assist children with special needs to reach their maximum potential by providing quality education, therapy and family support.

Celebrating . . . Former Students

"Taylor believed she could, and so she did. I think the best thing that the Achievement Academy did for us was that they expected us to expect great things from Taylor, and so we do!"

Taylor's mom, Rhonda



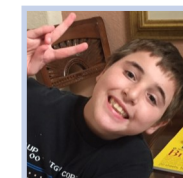
"When Sarah and Rachel started at the Achievement Academy we fully expected that they would achieve their potential because of the classroom settings and the therapy they received. What we didn't anticipate is the way the school changed the rest of us. Our older daughters were able to learn compassion, empathy, tolerance, and patience that is difficult as a parent to teach if you are not living it. We are grateful to the Achievement Academy for supporting us through raising Sarah and Rachel and for helping Hannah and Emily experience life from the perspective of acceptance."

Sarah and Rachel's mom, Mary



"When Michael entered Achievement Academy in August 2006 at age three, we didn't know if he would be able to talk or learn. All I hoped for was that his teachers would find a way to like him and be happy that he was there. Well, they did so much more. Michael learned, and our whole family was given support and hope. Today, at age 12, Michael has lots to say and he plans to be a graphic artist and video game designer."

Michael's mom, Cathy



Registration Open!

BIG CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT!

Monday, November 16, 2015
Lone Palm Golf Club, 800 Lone Palm Dr, Lakeland, FL
Registration and Lunch— 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start— 12:00 p.m.
Banquet and Awards— following play

For registration or sponsorship information, visit our website at AchievementAcademy.com or contact Ashley Barrett, 863-683-6504, x 127

"Joseph was a 2010 graduate of Achievement Academy. He is currently in 5th grade in public school where he has maintained the A-B honor roll since Kindergarten. Joseph participates in the Chess Club at school, plays soccer and loves building anything as long as it has VERY SMALL parts!"

Joseph's mom, Destiny



"Tionnie attended Achievement Academy from the age of 1½ to 5½. She received speech, physical and occupational therapy. In kindergarten, she was referred to the alpha/gifted program and was tested and accepted the following year. Today, Tionnie is in 4th grade and is thriving. According to her physician, she is very "loquacious" and yes, Tionnie went home and looked that up!"

Tionnie's mom, Annetta



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
CELEBRATING OUR
60TH ANNIVERSARY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015
3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
716 E. BELLA VISTA ST
LAKELAND, FL 33805

CELEBRATING OUR
60TH ANNIVERSARY

~ Our Vision ~

Special Beginnings Brighter Futures.