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APPLAUSE!

Lasting Impacts: Hailey's Story



Hailey, Age 2

Our daughter, Hailey, was born seven weeks premature and weighed only 2 pounds 11 oz. My husband could literally hold her tiny body in the palm of his hand. Because of Hailey's prematurity, she had to spend five weeks in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). It was so difficult to give birth and leave the hospital without our precious little baby girl. Days and nights were spent visiting Hailey, just to lay my hand upon her when she was too sick and tiny to hold. The NICU physicians found a heart defect and said Hailey would need heart surgery when her weight reached 10 pounds. At 6 months old, Hailey was able to have heart surgery and spent another five weeks in the hospital. During this procedure doctors discovered that Hailey's vocal cords were paralyzed. She could not breathe or eat on her own requiring intubation and a gastrostomy tube for survival.

We knew at a very young age that our sweet little redheaded baby girl would need extra help.

Hailey was referred to the Achievement Academy's Birth to Three program. An early interventionist came to our home to provide early intervention services when she was a year old. Hailey could not hold her head up or make eye contact. Because she needed ongoing intensive services, she was soon referred to the Achievement Academy's Charter School program when she was 18 months old. We knew it was going to be hard to trust anyone with our medically fragile little girl — until my husband and I walked through the doors of the school. There were bright friendly colors, happy smiling children and a loving staff. We immediately felt at home and knew Hailey would benefit from going to school there.

When Hailey started going to school at Achievement Academy she was 18 months old and could not even sit up on her own. She began receiving individual physical, occupational and speech therapy. Progress was very slow but we had HOPE . . . HOPE for Hailey that she would continue to reach her developmental milestones. Hailey also has a hearing loss in her left ear and wears glasses to help her vision. Hailey's teachers, classroom staff and therapists at Achievement Academy were so patient and worked diligently with her on her goals in such a collaborative environment. She started to master some basic skills but was still very behind developmentally.

The gains Hailey continued to make in the years she attended Achievement Academy were astonishing. She finally began to walk at almost four years old. We were thrilled to watch her blossom. Hailey went from a little girl who some said would never walk and talk to a beautiful little girl ready to graduate Achievement Academy at 6 years old and enter a typical Kindergarten program.

Today Hailey is in 4th grade and loves school. She is caring and compassionate with her classmates and loves to help everyone. She helps me make Blessing Bags at the holidays to give to the less fortunate. Hailey wants to be a doctor when she grows up to help eliminate cancer. We know that Hailey can be anything she wants to be thanks to Achievement Academy. ~ Rachael, Hailey's mom ~



Hailey today, Age 10

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Dates to Remember

Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 20—24, 2017

Winter Break
Dec. 22, 2017—
Jan. 3, 2018

(Holiday)
Dr. ML King Jr. Day
January 15, 2018

(Holiday)
Presidents' Day
February 19, 2018



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PolkAchievementAcademy

Paving the Way to Brighter Futures

This program offers an opportunity for you to support Achievement Academy by personalizing a brick paver which will be engraved and placed on the school campus. Bricks purchased with your gift of \$125 can be engraved to honor a graduate, support a current student, engrave your family's name, celebrate your child's teacher, promote your business or whatever you like!

For more information or to purchase a brick, visit our website at achievementacademy.com/ways-to-give/ or contact Stacy Williams: stacy@achievementacademy.com or 863-683-6504.

Thank You!

To the following community partners

Bartow Ford

The Hilda Sutton and William D. Blanton Charitable Foundation

Day & Night Tire, LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Earley

Esterline Landscape

Fish City Grill

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The Lee Foundation

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union

The Glenn W. & Hazel Paxson Morrison Foundation

Publix Super Markets Charities

United Way of Central Florida

Watson Clinic Foundation

Donor Spotlight: Sandra Garten

I was so impressed with the results of Achievement Academy's methods of teaching my grandniece, Hailey, that I wanted to continue to donate even after Hailey graduated. Your school is so important to the community; I can't imagine it not being available to the children who need its' services. It is because of Achievement Academy that Hailey has been able to attend school in the main stream school system. ~Sandra Garten, Hailey's Great Aunt ~



Sandra Garten
Hailey's Great Aunt



Pilot Program Update ~ Integrated Listening System

Last year we began a new program that is benefitting students who need help with sensory integration. The Integrated Listening System (iLS) is a multi-sensory exercise program for improving brain and body function. The activities are fun and can be customized for all ages and skill levels. The iLS program is unique in providing input to multiple senses at the same time through music, movement and language, which is delivered via specialized headphones combined with body movement and speech tasks.

Our pilot program is in full swing. Students use the system for 60 minutes, three times a week, during classroom and therapy time. Based on therapist and teacher input, what we have seen so far with some of the students include: decrease in anxiety, increase in attention and focus, and improved social engagement.



Annual Meeting and Staff Highlights

The Achievement Academy's Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18th, at Regal Automotive Community Room. The following new board members were announced: Stephanie Colon, Citizens Bank and Trust, and Randy Saunders, BB&T.

The John F. Schneider Outstanding Service Award went to the Kontny Family and Kay Bowman for their tremendous support of the Achievement Academy. The Doris Trohn Award is presented to a business or organization for their commitment in creating brighter futures for children with special needs. This year the award went to Pallet Recycle, Gator Pressure Cleaning & Custom Painting and United Way of Central Florida.

Staff awards were given to the following staff for their dedication and commitment to the children and families of Achievement Academy. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!



(L-R) John Burton, Achievement Academy Executive Director; Penny Borgia, United Way of Central Florida Chief Impact Officer; Alan Turner, United Way of Central Florida President & CEO; Sam Houghton, Achievement Academy Board President.

35 Years	Becky Jacklin, Early Interventionist	10 Years	Christine Gummow, ESE Facilitator/ Early Interventionist
30 Years	Cindi Parker-Pearson, Principal	10 Years	Carrie Redden, Speech Therapy Assistant
20 Years	Stacey Robinson, Teacher/Lakeland	10 Years	Griselle Unda, Terminal Operator
20 Years	Laurie Turner, RN, School Nurse/Early Interventionist	10 Years	Marisol Vega, Teacher/Bartow
15 Years	Joanne Jones, Para-Professional/Bartow	5 Years	Terri Pitts, Para-Professional/Lakeland
15 Years	Destiny Wimberley, Para-Professional/Lakeland		

~ Our Mission ~

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

Announcing our New Building Blocks of Giving Program!

Building Blocks of Giving is an opportunity for you to help change a child's life. With your support, through a financial donation, we are able to provide one-on-one physical, occupational and speech therapies. These therapies, along with small classroom instruction, are designed to help children with special needs learn and develop in a setting that will maximize their potential. Donors of \$10 or more are recognized at various levels based on their cumulative and / or annual support.

We also have a **Corporate Building Blocks of Giving** Program. The purpose of this program is to streamline our event sponsorships into an annual sponsorship that will give companies more recognition. Instead of receiving information throughout the year on various sponsorship opportunities, companies will receive it on an annual basis. Depending on the level of sponsorship chosen, the potential exposure for a business is between 500 to 1,500 individuals and local businesses. This will allow your business to have recognition on our website and in publications, as well as all of our mission-related events such as: Annual Meeting, Fall Festival, Holiday Brunch Reception, Rise and Shine for Kids and Graduation.

For more information about our **Building Blocks of Giving** Program, please visit our website at achievementacademy.com/ways-to-give/ or contact: Stacy Williams, CFRE, Development Director
863-683-6504 or stacy@achievementacademy.com.



Lasting Bonds: Ty'Anthony and Trustin

Ty'Anthony has made huge gains in his development because of the small class size instruction and one-on-one therapy sessions he receives at Achievement Academy. His teachers and therapists collaborate to make sure he is working on the same skills in both the classroom and therapy. Ty'Anthony has limited mobility in his lower extremities but because of Achievement Academy and caring people who give to this wonderful school, he is now able to get in and out of his chair and push his mobile stander on his own.



Best friends Ty'Anthony and Trustin share a laugh

Ty'Anthony made a special friend at his school last year — Trustin. This year they are in different classes but still ask to see each other. A special bond has formed between these two friends and this picture illustrates it all.



Ty'Anthony in his stander

"Studies show that high quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs yield returns on investment to society at-large ranging from \$7 to \$17 for every dollar invested."

~ Children's Forum, Tallahassee, Florida ~

Did you know . . . Achievement Academy Charter School has three campuses? In addition to our main campus in Lakeland (716 E. Bella Vista Street, Lakeland, FL 33805), we also have a campus in Winter Haven (2211 28th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33880) and Bartow (695 E. Summerlin Street, Bartow, FL 33830).

~ Our Vision ~

Special Beginnings Brighter Futures.