

# APPLAUSE!

Official Achievement Academy Charter School Newsletter



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## Have You Seen Our Amazing New Website?

Now, everything you wanted to know about Achievement Academy is just a mouse click away. Visit us at [www.achievementacademy.com](http://www.achievementacademy.com)

This month you can download all information and registration forms for our 8th Annual "Chip-In For Children" Golf Tournament.

## 8th Annual "Chip-In For Children" Golf Tournament is Just Around



This event has become one of our favorite ways to involve the community in the great things we are doing here at Achievement Academy. It is a fun filled day of golf for anyone who would like to participate. All funds raised through play registration,

sponsorships and donations help our children receive the vital services they need. These services include occupational, physical and speech therapy. In many cases these services are not covered by insurance or Medicaid. Just \$50 provides a child with a half an hour therapy session and many of our children need all three therapies.

This year's tournament is Friday, October 26, 2007, at Eaglebrooke Golf & Country Club. Lunch will be served at 11:30am with a shotgun start at 1:00pm. There will be a wonderful dinner, prizes and live auctions to follow.

If you are interested contact Stacy Williams at Achievement Academy or download a registration form from our website.

## From Paula Sullivan, Director

We welcomed back students, parents and staff to a new and exciting school year on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The returning students helped the new students in adjusting to the school day at Achievement Academy. It is nice to see new faces in school this year, but we always miss our students that have graduated to other schools.

We have had some staff changes over the summer and they are as follows:

1. We hired three new teachers: Jodi Frisby at Lakeland, Marisol Vega at Bartow and Amanda Baxley at Winter Haven.
  2. We hired Carrie Redden as a speech therapy assistant for Bartow and Winter Haven.
  3. Glenda Padgett as a paraprofessional for Lakeland, Griselle Unda as a paraprofessional for Bartow. Britney Ammerman joined us in May as the paraprofessional in Winter Haven.
  4. Kimberly Christoffersen has joined us while Deborah Sulsona is on maternity leave.
  5. Teresa Robb is now working one day a week with the marketing department.
  6. Katie O'Neal is a USF Speech Therapy student who will be with us this semester in Lakeland.
- We are so glad to have all of these with us this year!

**July was an exciting month for the Achievement Academy!** We purchased almost 16 acres on 540-A to build a new building that will allow us to provide services to more children in our community. We had our Charter School contract extended until 2022 and increased the number of students we can serve up to 200. The extended contract will allow us to obtain long-term financing to pay for the land and new building. At this point, we are only in the planning stages for a new building as we need to pay off the land before starting construction. We will be starting our Capital Campaign soon, so stay tuned and enjoy and support this exciting adventure!!!

### Dates to Remember:

Executive and Board meetings:

- 11:30am - October 10<sup>th</sup> - Executive Committee meeting at the Lakeland School
- 6:30pm - October 16<sup>th</sup> - Annual Meeting at Community Southern Bank in Lakeland
- October 26<sup>th</sup> - Golf Tournament at Egelbrooke
- 11:30am - November 7<sup>th</sup> - Executive Committee meeting at the Lakeland School
- 6:00pm - November 14<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting at the Lakeland School



### Thanks to our Newest Champions for Children



**Gold**

The Ghia Putnam  
Spinosa Family



**Silver**

Custom Drilling Services, Inc.  
Bright House Networks



**Bronze**

D.E.C. Fabrication & Supply  
John & Lynne Scott  
Rooms to Go

### Thanks to Special People

**Mr. & Mrs. Mike Baker** for donations to our Therapeutic Listening Program

**Ted & Mary Hoffman** for donating a bubble machine

**Publix Charities** for donations to our Birth to Three Program

**The Blanton Foundation Board of Directors** for their generous donation

**Mark Miller** at Lanier Upshaw for donating to our program

A grant awarded by the **Glazer Family Foundation** for supplies and developmental equipment for our Birth to Three Program

A grant awarded by the **George W. Jenkins Fund** within

the **Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland, Inc.** to help support our "Technology in the Classroom" project

A grant awarded by the **George W. Jenkins within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland, Inc.** to help support our "Familiar Voices" project



When Charlie was born at 10 weeks premature she weighed only 2 pounds, 4 ounces. She literally fit in the palm, of her parent's two hands.

Charlie's journey at Achievement Academy began in our Birth to Three Program when she was just 4 months old. Each month one of our Early Interventionists, Becky Jacklin, visited her home teaching developmental activities and techniques to her parents in order to enhance Charlie's development. Equipment and developmental toys, all provided by United Way funds, were given to the family to help Charlie reach her goals.

Charlie had a rough start to life that included many obstacles to overcome. Learning to crawl and walk took much time and effort. She began to crawl at age one and by age two she had accomplished walking. Charlie is now three years old and is a shining light in her mom's eyes. Her parents truly believe that if it weren't for Achievement Academy and United Way, Charlie may have been further behind in her development.

**If you or someone you know has a child who may be at-risk for developmental delays please contact Achievement Academy. Our Birth to Three Program is free of charge to any family who needs this service.**

## Local Businesses Get on Board with Our New Champions for Children Program

Throughout the year Achievement Academy has several fun sporting events, a golf tournament, a Pro-Am tennis tournament and a "Pigeon Pull" skeet shooting day. These events help to raise fund for the special programs at our three area schools and anyone is welcomed to join the fun.

With each event we offer local companies (individuals as well) the opportunity to participate through various levels of sponsorship. Now with our newly developed Champions for Children program companies, with a one-time commitment, can sign up for a full year of sponsorship that includes all of our sporting events. Depending on the amount of the commitment companies will receive: dinner tickets to the events, many forms of advertising/community exposure and tickets to actually participate in the golf tournament and skeet shoot. Certainly any business that participates will be listed as an official Champion for Children and recognized in many of the publications we regularly send out to the community.

If your business is interested in becoming a Champion for Children please contact Stacy Williams, Director of Marketing, at Achievement Academy.

## Speaking of Champions...



Several freshmen students from Florida Southern College volunteered the morning of Saturday, August 25 spreading mulch on the playground at our Bartow school. This was the first year that Florida Southern College launched its Community Impact Day. We are so grateful they chose Achievement Academy as one of their projects for the day. What a great job they did!

*Thank You!*



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### 2007-08 Board Members

**President**  
Luis Unda

**1st Vice President**  
Janice Jones

**2nd Vice President**  
Randy Hollen

**Secretary**  
Mark Miller

**Treasurer**  
John Scott

**Members**  
Adam Airth  
Steve Earley  
George Flack  
Eneix Frankenburger  
J.P. James  
Chris Mier  
Doris Trohn  
Tony Turbeville  
Jason Wozniak

### *Congratulations*

We would like to welcome our  
new employees:

Jodi Frisby, *Teacher*  
Marisol Vega, *Teacher*  
Amanda Baxley, *Teacher*  
Carrie Redden, *Asst. Speech  
Therapist*  
Glenda Padgett, *Paraprofessional*  
Griselle Unda, *Paraprofessional*

We also would like to welcome  
our newest additions:

Evan Conner, *born ?*  
*to Wendell & Deborah Sulsona*  
David Wynn, *born ?*  
*to Trevor & Lara Thomas*

### Dates to Remember:



**Annual Board Meeting:**  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007

**Student/Teacher Holiday:**  
Friday, October 19, 2007

**Student/Parent Fall Festival:**  
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

**8th Annual "Chip-In for  
Children" Golf Tournament:**  
Friday, October 26, 2007