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## **Fourth Annual Top Chef of Polk County Event Held to Benefit Achievement Academy**

**LAKELAND, FL (May 9, 2018)** - Achievement Academy held its fourth annual Top Chef of Polk County event on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland. More than 200 guests enjoyed signature dishes (tapas style) prepared by chefs.

Guests judged each chef on their creation and Chef Patrick Schaefer from Patio850 was awarded the title of “Top Chef of Polk County 2018.” In addition, guests voted on their favorite dining station to award “Top Table Décor”. The vote resulted in a tie between Chef Matt Fulwood from The Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens and Chef Wayne Haggard, Spectra Food Services at The RP Funding Center who were both awarded “Top Table Décor”. Chef Chris Worley from Terrie Lobb Catering raised the most funds for Achievement Academy through his donated auction item/s and online voting totaling \$5,459.18 and earned the “Top Philanthropic Chef” award.

Our VIP Reception Sponsors were Bartow Ford, Hillcrest Partners Limited Partnership and Pallet Recycle. Our Culinary Sponsors were BB&T, Keller Williams Realty Lakeland, Smart Title of Lakeland and Steve and Janice Jones. Our Master Chef Sponsors were Alfa Romeo FIAT of Winter Haven, Bul-Hed Corporation, CertiPay, Farm Credit of Central Florida, Guynn Family Produce, NUCO Pump and Well Services, LLC., Platinum Benefit Services, Inc., Polk State College

Foundation, Saddle Creek Logistics Services, Seigler Funeral Home, Inc., Strickland Construction, Inc. and Summit.

*The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.*