



Lakeland Campus

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Lakeland, FL 33805
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Bartow Campus

695 E. Summerlin Street
Bartow, FL 33830
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Winter Haven Campus

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

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863-683-6504

www.AchievementAcademy.com

John Burton, Executive Director

Cindi Parker-Pearson, Principal



www.facebook.com/PolkAchievementAcademy



@achieveacad



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APPLAUSE!

Lasting Impacts: Aidan and Ethan's Story



Jillyan and Chad never knew anything was wrong, but at 27 weeks she was taken to the hospital after having contractions. Their son, Aidan, was born weighing just 2 lbs., 12 oz. He spent a total of 3 ½ months in the NICU.

Because he was a “preemie” they were referred to the **Achievement Academy's**

Birth to Three program. Becky, their Early Interventionist, did much to ease their fears about Aidan's development and helped push him in areas that as parents, they were unfamiliar. He was doing well and on track with his development.

Unfortunately, in the space of about four months, Aidan went from a vocabulary of 50 words to almost none. They worked diligently to get him back on track and

he started re-gaining most of his language skills. At 3, Aidan entered **Achievement Academy's Charter School.** He has thrived in the school and is becoming quite a chatty 5 year old! In talking with Aidan's teacher, Miss Claire, she had the following to share: *“Aidan is kindergarten ready. He knows his letters and numbers, initiates play, and is kind and polite with his peers and teachers. Although shy, he uses lots of words and makes his needs known. Aidan is a joy!”*

In 2013, Jillyan was pregnant with their second child and at 24 weeks, through an emergency C-section, Ethan was born at just 1 lb., 13 oz. The medical team called him a “micro preemie.” He was ventilator dependent from the first day. He had a tracheotomy tube surgically added and developed Pulmonary Hypertension a few weeks later. He was in NICU for a total of eight months.

Once settled at home, Laurie, another Early Interventionist from **Achievement Academy's Birth to Three Program,** began seeing Ethan. She encouraged Jillyan and Chad and showed them how to play with Ethan to promote development. Ethan continues to progress and now has started word signing and walking with assistance.

“We give credit to the Achievement Academy and their staff for helping Aidan and Ethan thrive. We want everyone to understand how appreciative we are for the help we have received through the generosity of individuals like you.” ~ Jillyan and Chad

Board Member Spotlight: Steve Earley



Board Member Steve Earley

Steve Earley joined the Board in the early 1980s, when the **Achievement Academy** was known as the Child Development Center (CDC). While taking a tour of the CDC, Steve discovered that an old classmate was the Director. Additionally, Steve felt the school stood out because it provided needed services for the greater Polk County area – *and he could see the results!*

Eventually, Steve was elected Board President and helped the organization through some financially challenging times. *“Through the hard work of the Board and staff, we became a charter school and life got better,”* Steve explained. *“The accomplishments of the school over the past few years has been brought about by the Board, Paula Sullivan (Former Executive Director), Cindi*

Parker-Pearson and the unbelievable staff who work every day to meet the needs of all our young folks. They are making a difference for our kids and their families every day.”

To recognize Steve's three decades as a Board member, Stacey Robinson's classroom in Lakeland (Bldg. B) was named in his honor. Looking back, Steve said *“It has been an honor and a great experience serving on this Board for the past 30 years.”*

2014-2015 Board Members

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Thank You!

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

Dates to Remember

Holiday (Memorial Day)

Monday, May 25, 2015

Graduation Celebrations

Tuesday, May 26, Winter Haven
Thursday, May 28, Bartow
Tuesday, June 2, Lakeland

Last Day of School for Students

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Executive Committee Meetings

Monday, April 13, 2015
Monday, May 11, 2015
Monday, June 8, 2015

Board Meetings

Tuesday, April 21, 2015
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Rise and Shine Walk for Kids

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Top Chef of Polk County

Monday, April 20, 2015

Hope for Brighter Futures Luncheon

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Upcoming Events — For More Information Call 863-683-6504



Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8:00 am
First Presbyterian Church at Lake Hollingsworth

★ DJ	★ Games	★ Photos with Costumed Characters
★ Face Painting	★ Local Food Trucks	★ Lakeland Fire Department Fire Engine

Come join us for the walk and afterwards enjoy family friendly activities, all while raising funds and awareness for Achievement Academy. Don't forget to register at www.AchievementAcademy.com.
Registration \$5.00 ~ Children under 12 Free

Thank you to our sponsors!

Austin and Courtney Jones	Five Star Cleaning Company, Inc.	MIDFLORIDA Credit Union
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Monday, April 20, 2015, 6:00 pm
The Lakeland Center

Corporate tables are still available, as well as a limited number of individual seats for \$100. Reservation includes a five-course meal with wine pairings, cooked tableside, live auction, and voting for "Top Chef People's Choice" and "Top Table Décor" awards. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thank you to our Top Chef participants!

Chef Jason Boniface - Red Door Wine Market
Chef Tina Calhoon - Frescos
Chef Terry Gracie - Apron's Cooking School
Chef Wayne Haggard - Ovations
Chef Stefan Mahan - Mahan's Eatery
Chef Ronald Mayer - Florida Presbyterian Homes
Chef "Q" Dennis Quisenberry, Jr. – Tiger Café, Tiger Town
Chef Chad Ward - Whiskey Bent BBQ Supply

Master of Ceremonies - Roger Todd, WPCV 97 Country
Auctioneer - Marty Higgenbotham, Higgenbotham Auctioneers

Thank you to our sponsors!

Central Florida's Big 4 Radio
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To secure
reservations
please call
863-683-6504



Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 11:30 am
Lone Palm Golf Club

Sponsorship Opportunities (All include Table of 8)

Bright Futures Sponsor - \$5,000
Shining Star Sponsor - \$2,000
Corporate Table Sponsor - \$500 (Table of 8)

Individual Tickets - \$25 per person

Our Hope for Brighter Futures Luncheon provides an opportunity for community supporters to gather for a special lunch program and hear about the impact our organization has had from parents whose children have benefitted from our programs. Through the generosity of private and corporate donors, funds raised through this event are utilized to fund the Mission of the Academy and provide speech, occupational and physical therapies to students.

Happenings at Achievement Academy

Achievement Academy held its annual holiday party at the Lakeland Campus on December 9th. Students and families enjoyed lots of different activities such as making snowmen out of marshmallows, designing jingle-bell bracelets, making reindeer food, and a "music and movement" activity under the twinkle of holiday lights. A special appearance by the man himself - Santa Claus - was by far the highlight of the evening! Thank you to all who came out for a night of fun and merry-making.



Santa and his Achievement Academy helpers.

At the January staff meeting, Principal Cindi Parker-Pearson had the privilege of announcing our 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year and Support Person of the Year. Well-deserved recognition goes to **Robyn Pospichal** as our *Teacher of the Year* and to **Wendy Ames**, Speech Therapist, as our *Support Person of the Year*.

"Both are outstanding staff members who go above and beyond on a daily basis and help make Achievement Academy the outstanding program that it is," said Cindi. "Join me in congratulating them and wishing them luck as they compete against the other charter school nominees." Overall county winners will be announced at the April 30, 2015 banquet.



Robyn Pospichal



Wendy Ames

Congratulations

Achievement Academy was recently selected as a recipient of **Indie Atlantic Films** "Give Back" Program. A short, three to five minute video will be filmed and produced by Indie Atlantic Films highlighting our mission and vision through visual storytelling. The video will be used at events and meetings throughout Polk County, with the video "premiering" at our Hope for Brighter Futures Luncheon, Wednesday, May 13, Lone Palm Golf Club. **THANK YOU INDIE ATLANTIC FILMS!**



Support Achievement Academy!

Join Us Tuesday, April 7, 2015
11:00 am – 9:30 pm
Fish City Grill at Lakeside Village
1485 Town Center Drive - Lakeland

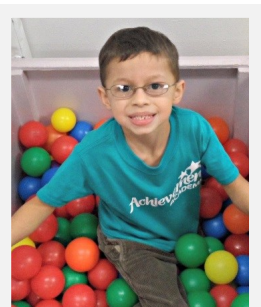
15% of all food and beverage sales, including take-out, will be donated to benefit the services and therapies provided to students of Achievement Academy

Donate Today and Make A Difference in the Life of a Child with Special Needs

Donations may be made by check, credit card or billed. To donate by check please complete the form below and return to: **Achievement Academy, 716 E. Bella Vista St., Lakeland, FL 33805**. To donate by credit card, please go to our secure website at www.AchievementAcademy.com and click on the green **Make a Donation** button. Also, please consider Achievement Academy in your will.

For more information, please contact: Maria Lewis, Director of Development; Maria@AchievementAcademy.com; 863-683-6504.

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☐ I would like more information about the Achievement Academy. Please contact me.



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