

ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
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Paula Sullivan, Executive Dir.

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Sam Houghton	Kim Wilbanks

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Dates to Remember:

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 11:30am

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 6pm

Thanksgiving Break

November 25-29, 2013

Open House to Honor Paula Sullivan

December 17, 2013, 3pm to 5pm

Winter Break

December 23, 2013-January 6, 2014

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 11:30am

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 6pm

Thank You...

to the wonderful businesses and
individuals that helped support
Achievement Academy's expansion
project:

**George W Jenkins Fund
within the CFGL**

Carol and Barney Barnett

Publix Super Markets Charities

The Mosaic Company

Bul-Hed Corporation

Furr & Wegman Architects

Rodda Construction

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

Special Beginnings.....Brighter Futures

Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!

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Celebrating our Expansion!

The Achievement Academy is pleased to announce the opening of five new classrooms at our newly renovated Lakeland campus at 716 E. Bella Vista. We invited the community to join us along with Mayor Gow Fields and the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce for our ribbon cutting on Thursday, September 12, 2013. This expansion has allowed us to serve an additional 55 students taking our total enrollment to 157. Afterwards our guests were given the opportunity to tour the new facility and see their donations and the philanthropy of the community at work. Achievement Academy purchased the Central Florida Speech and Hearing building in August 2012. After raising

the funds necessary to complete our project, Rodda Construction began demolition in May 2013. We were able to add five new classrooms as well as three new therapy rooms for speech, occupational and physical therapy. Because of the expansion we were able to significantly reduce the number of children on our waiting list. Parents were delighted to receive the phone call over the summer offering their child an opportunity to participate in a program that gives them specialized instruction by a certified teacher along with weekly individualized therapy sessions at no charge. We enthusiastically opened doors on August 19, 2013 for all of our new and returning students.



One of our New Classrooms

**Don't forget to
check out our website
www.achievementacademy.com**

Save the Date

Rise & Shine Walk for Kids

March 8, 2014

8am at First Presbyterian Church
Lake Hollingsworth Dr, Lakeland

~ Where Brighter Futures Begin ~

Spotlight on Paula Sullivan

Since 1984, Achievement Academy, known then as Child Development Center of Polk County, has enjoyed and benefited from the commitment, talent and dedication of our Executive Director, Paula Sullivan. Originally hired as a social worker for the agency, she became the Executive Director in 1987 and after 26 years of outstanding leadership in that position will be retiring soon. Always selfless in her commitment to the school, she has tirelessly advocated for and supported **all** children and their families throughout her career but those children with special needs have been her passion. She has touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of children and their families and leaves a legacy desired by many but attained by few. Guided by her integrity, work ethic and a sense of responsibility, she has lived daily the mission of Achievement Academy.

An Open House honoring and recognizing Paula's commitment is being held on Tuesday, December 17 from 3-5pm at the Lakeland school, 716 E. Bella Vista St. If you have had the pleasure of knowing Paula, please make plans to stop by. All are invited.



Board Member Spotlight



Margaret Cox

Board Member since 2012

Margaret Cox began as a Board member of the Achievement Academy in January of 2012 and has been voted Treasurer of the Board. Margaret is the Assistant Treasurer at The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. and has been there since 1998. She is a member of North Lakeland Presbyterian Church where she is the financial secretary for the Youth Group and was also elected an Elder. She is married to Charles "Chuck" Cox, an active duty soldier with the Florida Army National Guard. Together they have two children, Zachary and Joshua, and one grandchild, Allison. Margaret was attracted to the Achievement Academy Board due to Joshua's special needs issues. She earned her Master's in Accounting from Nova Southeastern University and has her CPA license. Margaret is a member of the AICPA and the FICPA. The Achievement Academy is fortunate to have Margaret on the Board.

Sharing Success



Born prematurely at six months, Nelson Martinez began the first couple months of his life in the NICU. His parents, Justino and Josefina Martinez, were overjoyed when they were able to bring him home. However at seven months, a severe asthma attack sent him to the ER. That was the first of many additional medical visits as a result of his premature birth. During an exam at two years of age, his concerned mother listened as his pediatrician told her Nelson would be unable to walk. Determined to help her

child, she was referred to treatment where Nelson was fitted for leg braces. It was during this therapy that she was told her son suffered from a mild form of spinal paralysis. At three years of age, Nelson attended a pre-school where he struggled to learn, play, and interact with other children due to his physical limitations and inability to do many things in the classroom on his own. A family friend referred them to the Achievement Academy in Bartow. Once he settled in, Nelson began to thrive while receiving weekly speech, physical and occupational therapy. His confidence grew as he was given individual attention by his teacher, Marisol Vega, and support from all of the Bartow school staff. His mother was



Thank you Lend Lease

Community support is vital to the programs of the Achievement Academy. Showing their support is Lend Lease, a group of privately owned construction corporations. Three separate groups of employees came and cleaned up our three campuses in Lakeland, Bartow and Winter Haven. They cleaned the playgrounds, spread new mulch, pressure washed and painted and other maintenance projects. We appreciate your support!

grateful that Nelson received therapy during his school day, because she was unable to take him herself while caring for her other children during the time her husband was at work. Nelson is now a sweet and confident 1st grader who is successful in school. His favorite subject is math and he loves to read! In March of 2013, Nelson underwent surgery on his foot to help correct his gait and he is now able to walk, run, jump, ride his bike and play with his siblings. "Nelson has been told he is no less than other children and he will be successful in life" states his mother Josefina. She is deeply appreciative of the love and support Nelson received while at Achievement Academy and credits Achievement Academy for much of his current success.

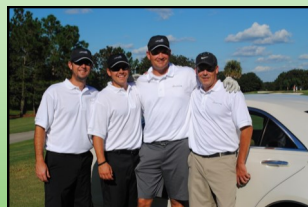


Courtney Wade and Lone Palm Pro, Bryan Moran

14th Annual Golf Tournament

The 14th Annual "Chip-In" for Children golf tournament held on October 10, 2013 at Lone Palm Golf Club raised \$15,000 for the programs of Achievement Academy! Teams were treated to lunch served by Lone Palm, Abuelo's and GrillSmith. Prior to teeing off, players had the opportunity to hear the testimony of Courtney Wade, a parent of a new student, about the relief and excitement she felt when her daughter was recently enrolled in our program. It was a gorgeous day for playing golf! Net winners were Southern Homes and gross winners were Houghton, PA. Afterwards players had cocktails and dinner and were entertained by Marty Higgenbotham as he auctioned off items donated by local businesses and contributors. Congratulations to all participants and thank you for supporting the Achievement Academy!

2013 Winners



Houghton, PA



Southern Homes

Welcome!

As the Achievement Academy increased its student enrollment, total number of staff also increased. Administration spent the summer hiring quality staff for our program. They come from varied backgrounds and schools, but all have a similar purpose, to serve children with special needs. We hired three new therapists, five teachers, eight paraprofessionals and an ESE facilitator. Our returning staff has welcomed them with open arms and they are now all part of the community of people who serve the children and families of the Achievement Academy!



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

Donate online at our secure website: www.achievementacademy.com or detach and mail the form shown below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Donations may be made by check, credit card or billed. Visa or MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

CCV#: _____

Amt. Enclosed: _____

I pledge at the following giving level:

____ \$1,000 + Visionary ____ \$999-500 Inspiration ____ \$499-250 Discover
____ \$249-100 Exploration ____ \$99-1 Foundation

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: Achievement Academy, 716 E. Bella Vista Street, Lakeland, FL 33805

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