

Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!

An Exciting New Journey

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The Achievement Academy, formerly Child Development Center of Polk County, Inc. offers the gift of hope to children with special needs and their families. In 1955, a group of visionary parents needed a special place to help their children succeed and that is how the journey first began.



Since that time, Achievement Academy has remained committed to creating brighter futures for children with developmental delays by providing early intervention through: Support, Therapy, Education, Advocacy and Resources. Exciting news came this year when our Charter School contract was approved through 2022.

Our Charter School Program provides innovative Pre-Kindergarten instruction for children with special needs ages eighteen months through six years of age. Currently enrollment is limited to the 89 children attending classes at three locations in Polk County. There are over 58 children on the waiting list for enrollment and the number continues to grow each day. This is a sobering statistic that creates a sense of urgency to expand our services to more children and

families. For this reason we are embarking on a special project.

As you drive down 540A, look for our sign that shows our future home. It is a beautiful piece of property and just like our logo we will sit high on the top of the hill as we continue to create brighter futures for children with special needs.

Thank you for your support as we travel new paths on this exciting journey.

Paula Sullivan
Executive Director

Don't forget to check out our new website

achievementacademy.com



Congrats!

Achievement Academy staff have quite a reputation when it comes to winning awards. Our nominees have placed in the top three for the last 4 years and this year is no different.

Stacey Robinson, Lakeland teacher, was awarded Second Runner-Up for Charter School Teacher of the Year at the Polk County Charter Schools Assoc. Awards Banquet.

We are very proud to have her on our team!



Left to right: Janice Jones, Jeanne Hebert & Evelyn Hollen

Country Western Round-Up

Cowboy boots, barbeque, line and square dancing were the highlight at the Country Western Round-Up held on Saturday, May 10th at the Higgenbotham's Ranch in Lakeland. Board members and guests showed up in their best western outfits and danced the night away. The fun filled evening **raised \$13,704.**

1st Annual "Rise & Shine" Walk is a Great Success

Over 100 people from all over Polk County participated in our 1st annual "Rise and Shine" Walk. Friends, families and the staff of Achievement Academy walked the three miles around Lake Hollingsworth all wearing bright yellow shirts to raise support and awareness for the school. It was a beautiful morning and everyone seemed to enjoy the walk as they laughed and talked with friends. Many also brought their family pets which added a little extra fun for all the kids. Thank you to the Craig family and all those who pledged, walked and worked on this event. It was a great success because of the awareness it brought to our community as well as the **\$10,500 that it raised.**



Two students from Achievement Academy enjoying the ride.



Left to right: Stuart Maslanik, Mark Palus, Ana Kharchenko & Jean Holan

29th Annual Pro-Am Tennis Tournament

Racquets were swinging on the weekend of March 8th for the Achievement Academy. The tournament was a great success despite very strong, cold winds on Saturday. Congratulations to tennis Pro Mark Palus and amateur Stuart Maslanik, who won the men's finals, and tennis Pro Ana Kharchenko and amateur Jean Holan, winners of the women's finals.

A special thanks to Chairperson, Doris Trohn who has given of her time for the past 24 years to make this such a special event.

This year's event **raised \$18,763** for the Achievement Academy.

Outstanding Community Support

Publix Super Market Charities

Hazel Crosby Carlton Foundation, Inc.

Citrus Center Kiwanis

Junior Service League of Bartow

Knights of Columbus, Winter Haven

The Higgenbotham Family

Thank You!



Leadership Lakeland

group visits the Achievement Academy

After the tour of the Academy, board member, Mark Miller, speaks to the group and gives his own personal success story on how he became involved with the Achievement Academy at the age of two. To hear his story please visit our website at www.achievementacademy.com and watch the powerful video.



Presenting... The Graduating Class of 2008!



Benjamin



Marshall



Alyssa



Rahsaan



Benjamin



Michael



Jeremy



Jeremiah



Tyler



Melinda



Daniel



Shanda



Monica



Morgan



Trevez



Jairus



Erin



Andres



Madelyn



Ryan



Bruce



Jordan

This year's graduation ceremony was held on Friday, June 6th at the Bartow Civic Center. It was a great evening as we celebrated the successes of our graduates. The theme for the event was "Expressing Our Success". One of the highlights of the night was an impressive display of artwork created by each of the students. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and wish them all the best.

Meet Dena Bishop, OT

At the young age of 16, after volunteering at a local pediatric rehab facility, Dena decided right then that being an Occupational Therapist was the career for her. Later, she went on to attend the University of Pittsburg where she majored in Occupational Therapy and graduated in 2000. In 2005, her career path led her to Achievement Academy. Here is where she gets to do what she loves: interact closely with children, explore obstacles and challenges to find useful solutions and make a big difference in the lives she touches. We are glad to have her at our school.

A "new love" in her life is husband Matt Bishop. They met two years ago through a mutual friend and were married in March of 2008. This summer the couple will celebrate their wedding with a delayed honeymoon trip... a 12-night cruise on the Mediterranean.



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Jeanne Hebert
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Tony Turbeville
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Congratulations

To all of our 2008 graduates
You are our heroes!

Your strength and determination has made you who you are today. May you continue to give life your best and be the very best you can be.

We have watched you grow from small infants and toddlers to independent young children. You have taught us so many things. Never forget what you have learned at the Achievement Academy. You will always be a part of our hearts.

Staff & Board

JoAnn Smith, Lakeland
Non-Instructional Nominee

Stacy Williams, Lakeland
Promotion to
Director of Philanthropy

Dates to Remember:

1st Day Back for Teachers
Monday, July 28, 2008

Student/Family Orientation
Friday, August 1, 2008
1-3pm at each school

1st Day Back for Students
Monday, August 4, 2008

Executive Committee Mtg.
Wednesday, August 13, 2008
11:30am in Lakeland

Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2008
6:00pm in Lakeland

Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 1, 2008

Golf Tournament
Friday, October 24, 2008