

ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
716 E. Bella Vista Street
Lakeland, FL 33805



716 E. Bella Vista Street
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 683-6504
Fax: (863) 688-9292

695 E. Summerlin Street
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 533-0690
Fax (863) 534-0798

2211 28th Street N.W.
Winter Haven, FL 33880
(863) 965-7586
Fax (863) 968-5016

Visit us online at
www.achievementacademy.com



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Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!



An Inspiration to All

by Board President, Janice Tedder Jones

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I've just returned from another exciting Achievement Academy Graduation. It was a wonderful experience to watch these children as they performed on stage in their "Gift of Wings" program and ultimately, dressed in their graduation caps and gowns, make their way down the aisle towards their families. I don't know who was prouder, the student or the family. There was rarely a dry eye in the house.

It was bittersweet for the staff as they said goodbye to these twenty-one children who with their families have become part of our larger Achievement Academy family. Come August we will have twenty-one new students enter our doors. I couldn't help and think though of those fifty plus children on our

waiting list or the untold countless in our community that need our help. That is why our "Where Brighter Futures Begin" Capital Campaign is so important. There are so many more children out there that are losing ground as I am writing. Our staff has the ability and the heart to help them; we just have to give them the facility.

In these uncertain economic times the naysayers say that this is the worst possible time to embark on this campaign and that it can't be done. Well, I'm sure our parents could tell you of the many times someone has said their child can't. We've seen what these children can accomplish so we say to those naysayers who say we can't do this... YES WE CAN and WE WILL.

Special Thanks to our Dedicated Capital Campaign Advisory Board

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Knights of Columbus

Maxwell Foundation

Lakeland North Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Lakeland, Christina

The Lakeland Rotary

The Lakeland South Rotary

The Glenn W. & Hazelle Paxson
Morrison Foundation

Dates to Remember:

Staff Returns to School

Wednesday, August 5

Student Orientation

Friday, August 7, 11am-3pm

First Day of School

Monday, August 10

School Holiday

Monday, Sept. 7

Executive Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 11:30am

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 6:00pm

Executive Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 11:30am

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6:00pm

"Chip-In" for Children Golf Tournament

October 2009

UPCOMING EVENT

"Chip-In" for Children Golf Tournament

Coming in October of 2009

Look for details in our
next newsletter

Contact Lara Fowler, Marketing
Coordinator 863-683-6504

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

Presenting... The Graduating Class of 2009!



Allison



Austin



Taylor



Caleb



Theodore



Rachel



Sarah



Jerry



Ethan



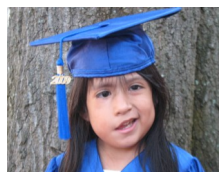
Cameron



Ryker



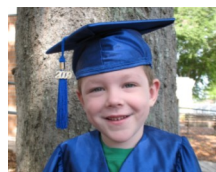
Lauren



Yadi



Davin



Evan



Zachariah



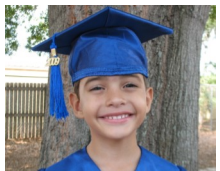
Jonathan



Ty'Ree



Chelsea



Maxwell



Angel

This year's graduation ceremony was held on Friday, June 5th at the Bartow Civic Center. It was a great evening as we celebrated the successes of our graduates. The theme for the event was "The Gift of Wings". We are so proud of all they have accomplished and wish them all the best.



Friends and Families Walk Together to Support the Achievement Academy

What a beautiful morning May 16th was as over 150 people of all ages came out to raise awareness for children with special needs. The day started off with the cadence from the Lakeland High School Drum Line and cheers from the Lakeland High School Cheerleaders. A special thank you to everyone who made this event a success.

Special Thanks to Special Sponsors

K & D Electric	Wachovia
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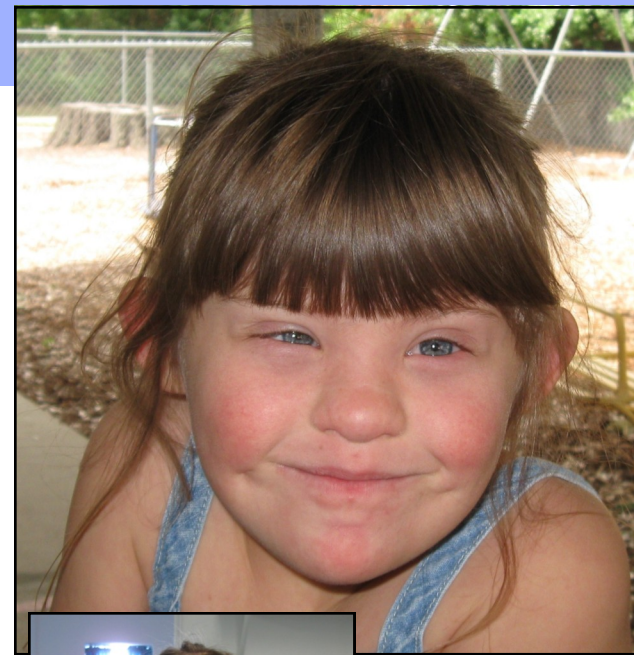
Taylor's Story

I think each and every parent of a special needs child can remember the precise moment that our lives changed and we began this journey. Whether we knew of their diagnosis before hand, or it blindsided us at their birth or it just crept into our lives months or even years later. Nothing prepares you for the moment that someone tries to tell you that your child is less than perfect in the eyes of society. It is heartbreaking.

For me personally, I did not know that Taylor would have Down syndrome until the moment that she was born. I knew very little about Down syndrome and I was terrified. The on-call pediatrician came into my room and told me that my precious little baby had a heart defect, he thought she might be deaf and that there was a big possibility that she would never read or write. He said "I'm sorry" and left the room. And with him, he took all of my hope for my child's future with him. Over the next several months, I did all of the things I was supposed to do. We saw specialists, we got involved in early intervention, we learned as much as we could about Down syndrome and I cried... a lot. I felt so lost and devastated...I did not know what to do. There were days that I felt hopeless.

Then I found the Achievement Academy. They became my life line. They encouraged me and my family. They loved my daughter exactly the way she is. They had high expectations of Taylor and insisted that we do the same, and so we do. Because of each and every person at the Achievement Academy, my daughter's future is bright. I know that she may do the things she wants to do at a slower pace than you or I, but she CAN DO and BE ANYTHING she wants to be.

This great school didn't only change the life of a special little girl who just so happens to have Down syndrome, it changed the life of her whole family...they gave us our hope back. There aren't enough words to say thank you for that!



Please donate today. Help the Achievement Academy continue providing services to special children like Taylor.

**Achievement
Academy**

*Every gift is a building block toward a brighter
future for children with special needs*

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: _____ Please Bill: _____

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

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