

ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY  
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Paula Sullivan, Executive Dir.

Visit us online at  
[www.achievementacademy.com](http://www.achievementacademy.com)



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## Thank You...

to the wonderful donors that help  
support Achievement Academy

**Florida Natural Growers Fdn**

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## *Congratulations!*

**Lakeshia Allen**, Paraprofessional, on the  
birth of her daughter, Kalise

**Ashlee Cofer**, Development Assistant, on  
the birth of her son, Joshua

## Dates to Remember:

**Executive Committee Mtg.**  
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 11:30am

**Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6pm

**Thanksgiving Break**  
Nov. 19 thru Nov. 23, 2012

**Executive Committee Mtg.**  
Wednesday, Dec 12, 11:30am

**Winter Break**  
Dec. 20 thru Jan. 7, 2013

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## 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

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Achievement Academy, Inc.

# APPLAUSE!

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## Dreams Come True

A long-time dream of Achievement Academy to expand our school and serve more children has begun to come true. In August of 2012, we purchased the building across the sidewalk from our Lakeland campus previously occupied by Central Florida Speech & Hearing. In a gracious effort to kick start the capital campaign for the purchase price and renovation, Bul-Hed Corporation and The Hedrick Family offered a challenge match. With their help and the efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors and other community donors, we were able to raise almost \$70,000 in just 21 days! The Hedricks have been long-time supporters of Achievement Academy and have always given generously to help our students. We appreciate their big heart and devotion to seeing this dream come true. Our goal is to begin renovations in early 2013 with the hopes of opening the 2013-2014 school year with at least four additional classrooms. For the 50+ children on our waiting list that need our services, it couldn't come soon enough.



Ronnie Hedrick II and Ronnie Hedrick



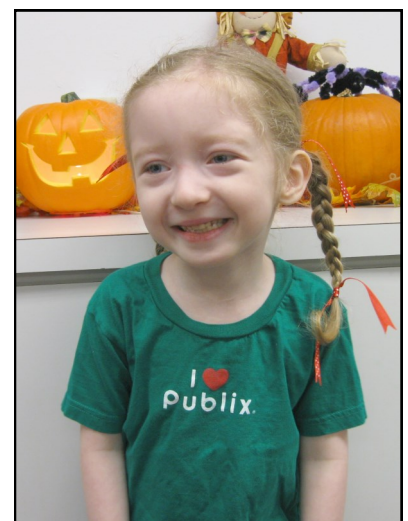
## We ♥ Publix

The Lakeland campus got a fresh new look for its two playgrounds thanks to the hardworking volunteers from Publix. The thirteen volunteers from the Publix Dairy Plant—Bldg 18 came out on October 20th and spread mulch, trimmed trees and cleaned equipment for the playgrounds in Lakeland which includes the playground for our new classroom. The children and staff certainly enjoyed playing on the transformed playground and finding the “surprise” sandcastle left by the volunteers. This kind act was a United Way Day of Caring opportunity which allows companies to partner with community agencies by providing a service.



Day of Caring volunteers from Publix

Don't forget to  
check out our website  
[www.achievementacademy.com](http://www.achievementacademy.com)



Hailey Jensen, current student,  
showing her Publix support!!



# ~ Where Brighter Futures Begin ~

## Board Member Spotlight



**Mark Miller**  
**Board Member since 2000**  
Mark is a Public Finance/Bond Assistant (Paralegal) at Holland & Knight LLP and has been an employee of the Firm since 1999. Mark is a former student and current member of the Board of Directors of Achievement Academy and has served as Secretary of the Board since 2004. Known then as United Cerebral Palsy Center, he was the youngest child to attend the Academy in its history at that time. Mark also presently serves on the Advisory Council of Lighthouse Ministries, Inc. His interests include family, food, fitness, music and sports. Mark is a member of First Baptist Church at the Mall. He is a die-hard fan of the Lakeland Dreadnaughts, Florida Gators and Pittsburgh Steelers. Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English Education, cum laude from Southeastern University in 1997. He was a member of Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society).

## Annual Golf Tournament raises over \$20,000!

The 13th Annual “Chip-In” for Children Golf Tournament was held again at Lone Palm Golf Club on October 12. 114 golfers not only enjoyed a great round of golf in beautiful Florida weather, but they were also treated to a delicious lunch from Abuelo’s, Grillsmith and Lone Palm. Later in the evening, guests enjoyed a fruit and cheese cocktail reception before being treated to a wonderful meal and an exciting night of auctions and drawings. This fun event is an annual fundraiser that helps support the programs at Achievement Academy. Our Birth to Three program is an in-home early intervention service for children “at-risk” for developmental delays and our Charter School provides small classrooms, one-on-one instruction and physical, speech and occupational therapy to our 102 students.



(L to R) Caleb Cone, former student, Lee White, Dave Seefeldt, Patrick Spinosa and Larry Foster

## Sharing Success By: Tina Matyger

My story begins as a single parent with two small boys with several different developmental delays. I quickly realized I needed help. At first, I was consumed with my 10 year old son, Ethan. He was experiencing difficulties in school such as reading below grade level, struggling with classroom assignments and having difficulty with math concepts. Ethan was soon diagnosed with autism. After several intervention strategies and meeting after meeting, I was introduced to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. I then requested a formal evaluation for my younger son, Brady, through the Early Steps program. Through the wonderful Valeria Tutton, Brady began his experience with special education and his IEP was developed. I placed Brady on two charter school waiting lists; one in Lake Wales and one at Achievement Academy’s Winter Haven location. I began to research both and after speaking with the teachers and staff at Achievement Academy, I found myself leaning in their direction. I found the structure of the school unique and the classes small. This is to me a school that provides accountability, documentation, materials, resources, assessment as well as credentialed support. Our teacher is Robyn Pospichal, para is



Patti Miller and our speech therapist is Cathy Seifer. I can’t say enough about them. Ansley Henderson does a great job as the Resource Parent! When I got the call from Jill Bartley that a spot was open, Brady was beginning enrollment in a different school. I was delighted to fill the opening at the Achievement Academy. Brady began in August of this year. This program has truly been a blessing as it continues to increase Brady’s abilities and speech everyday. I know we will continue the fun experience in the classroom and look forward to an exciting first year working hard on meeting Brady’s goals. To sum up, the Achievement Academy provides parents of children with special needs certainty and hope about their children’s future and for that I’m grateful, blessed and in great hands. I don’t feel isolated anymore. The staff really listens to me as a parent and gives me the support I need. Thank you so much Achievement Academy.

### Thank You...

to all our sponsors for making the 13th Annual “Chip-In” for Children Golf Tournament a huge success!

## Welcome to the Family!



As part of the purchase agreement with Central Florida Speech & Hearing, Achievement Academy assumed the students of the ACE Charter School and were able to begin the school year with the additional classroom. We also welcomed former ACE teacher, Erin Cliburn, and Paraprofessionals for that classroom, Terri Pitts and Ayesha Rogers as part of our family. Their years of experience,

## 30 Years of Service!

Becky Jacklin began her career at the Achievement Academy in January, 1982. She was hired as a Special Education aide and then became a teacher in Winter Haven and Bartow when we had a Developmental Day School program that was funded by Developmental Services. She served as a Behavior Specialist and Parent Trainer before becoming an Early Interventionist in July, 1993. After 30 years with the Academy, Becky has seen many changes in our programs, but has never changed in her dedication to the children and families she serves each day. THANK YOU BECKY, for making life better for so many little ones in Polk County!



dedication, and desire to have a positive impact on their young students make them a wonderful asset to our school. We are truly fortunate to add them to the Achievement Academy family!

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

Donate online at our secure website: [www.achievementacademy.com](http://www.achievementacademy.com) or detach and mail the form shown below.

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