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Visit us online at
www.achievementacademy.com

2007-08 Board Members

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Tony Turbeville
Jason Wozniak

Congratulations

New Academy Employees

Mary Holjes, Lakeland
Resource Parent

Lara Fowler, Lakeland
Marketing Coordinator

Amanda Baxley
Teacher of the Year

and

Stacy Williams
Non-Instructional
Employee of the Year

Each was nominated by their colleagues to represent Achievement Academy at the Polk County Association of Charter Schools Award Ceremony coming in the Spring.



New Arrival

Noah Anthony Wozniak
Born Oct. 29, 2008
6 lbs. 15 oz., 19.5"
Christy & Jason Wozniak,
Board Member

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Achievement Academy, Inc.

APPLAUSE!

“Where Bright Futures Begin” Receives Support from Community Leaders

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Left to right: Janice Jones, Board Member President, Stacy Williams, Director of Philanthropy, Angela & Marty Higgenbotham, Advisory Board Honorary Chairpersons, Tony Turbeville, Board Member

The Achievement Academy has established an Advisory Board for the “Where Brighter Futures Begin” Campaign. These individuals share a passion for our mission and each have made a commitment to help raise \$6 million to build a new facility on 540A in Lakeland. This would allow us to expand our services to meet the needs of up to 200 children with special needs. Our current facilities are at capacity with 89 children enrolled and 50 additional children on a waiting list and that number continues to grow.

On October 2, 2008, we held a reception at Grasslands Golf & Country Club to welcome each new Advisory Board member.

Honorary Chairpersons

Marty & Angela
Higgenbotham

Chairperson

Janice Jones

Vice Chairpersons

Adam Airth
Randy Hollen
Tony Turbeville

Executive Director

Paula Sullivan

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Cindi Parker-Pearson

Dir. of Philanthropy

Stacy Williams

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Bhisitkul
Hollis & Debbie Hooks
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David & Ann Marshall
Greg Masters
Michael Micaleff
Brian Philpot
Larry Pitts
Sally Putnam
Ghia Putnam-Spinosa
John Scott
Susan Rogers
Kelli Stargel
Conley Thornhill
Macon Tomlinson
Kim & Jim Wilbanks



Many thanks to the Advisory Board for their commitment to our “Where Bright Futures Begin” capital campaign. We look to the future with much excitement as we work together to build brighter futures for children with special needs.

COMING SOON!

Bartow Junior Service League 5K Run for Kids with Special Needs

Summerlin Park in Bartow
Saturday, Feb. 21,
Registration at 7:30am

Country Western Round-Up & Pigeon Pull

Higgenbotham Ranch
Saturday, February 28

30th Annual Pro-Am Tennis Tournament

Lakeland Yacht Club &
Grasslands Country Club
Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
March 13-15

2nd Annual Rise & Shine Walk for Kids

Lake Hollingsworth
Saturday, April 18 at 8:00am

Dates to Remember:

Executive Committee Mtg.
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008
11:30am in Lakeland

Last Day of School Before Winter Break
Friday, Dec. 12, 2008

1st Day Back for Teachers
Monday, Jan. 5, 2009

1st Day Back for Students
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Mon. & Tues., Jan. 19-20, 2009

Executive Committee Mtg.
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009
11:30am in Lakeland

Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009
6:00pm in Lakeland

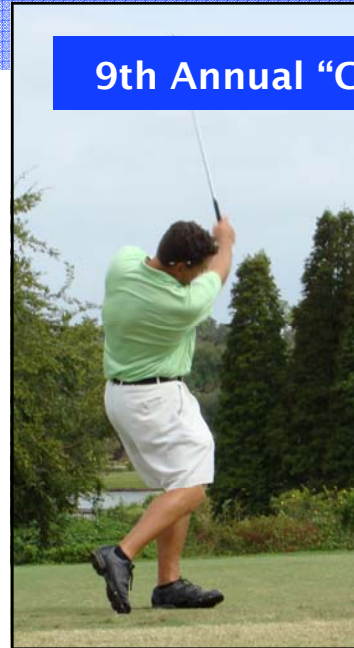
“Bay News 9” Visits the Achievement Academy

Three year old Rhett Lamb is a new student at Achievement Academy. Since May he has been the focus of a series of reports done by Bay News 9 educating people about his rare condition, Chiari Malformation, and the difficult symptom of sleeplessness that sometimes accompanies this condition. Until now, Rhett has not slept through the night since he was born.

Recently Bay News 9 visited our Bartow campus to follow up and report on the success of Rhett’s recent surgery to correct the malformation. The best news of all is that he is now sleeping through the night and thanks in part to Achievement Academy, he is making tremendous academic progress.

To learn more about Rhett’s incredible story visit our new website at www.achievementacademy.com.

9th Annual “Chip In For Children” Golf Tournament



Shane Willis

It was an unusually rainy day on Friday, October 24 but the weather didn’t dampen the excitement of the golfers at our 9th annual “Chip In for Children” golf tournament held at Eaglebrooke Golf & Country Club. Each year this event is a lot of fun for players and volunteers alike, and this year was no exception. Friendly competition and smiles were everywhere as all realized the importance of this special event.

The day certainly was a success as many joined in donating their time, money and resources to Achievement Academy. As always we can never say enough thanks to our volunteers, players and sponsors. Subway and Florida Coca-Cola were our very generous corporate sponsors. **THANK YOU!**

Scores for the event were very competitive but only one team could claim the title of “1st Place”. Team QMI placed first with a score of 55 Low Gross. The foursome included Bill Crow, Shane Willis, Mike Harris and Dave Mahoney. Each player received four rounds of golf from Mystic Dunes and a first place trophy. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

According to the score not everyone could be winners, but to us, you all are because of your generosity. We hope to see each of you again at next year’s event.

The “WINNERS”



1st Place Team QMI-left to right: Shane Willis, Bill Crow, Dave Mahoney and Mike Harris



Comanco Left to right: Brandon Gerber, Kim Byer, Tony Boatman and Amy Thornhill

Special Thanks to Lighthouse Ministries and Community Supporters

for their generous donations to our families during the holidays.

TAX TIP:

Take advantage of tax benefits by making your gift to Achievement Academy prior to December 31, 2008.

A Vacation Memory

By Luis Unda, Immediate Past President, Board Member

Ah, the cool mornings are coming back, the days are getting shorter and the lawn doesn’t need to be mowed as often. It can only be a sign that Fall is upon us and Summer is over.

This past summer I had a nice vacation at the beach with my family. Everything went well except for the last day. I suffered an injury that made me look at life from a different angle, three feet from the ground to be exact, as I ended up in a wheelchair.

How many of you have been required to use a wheelchair before? Let me guess—just a few. For



Left to right: Grisel, Fernando, Giselle, Luis Unda and Sammy the dog

those who have, they can tell you it is not fun. From the first time you sit and try to move around it is a challenge. The learning process begins. Soon you master how to move back and forth—that’s easy! Then, you try to get around and that is when the problems start. All of a sudden the pathways are too narrow, you run into the walls and your surroundings “tell” you what you can and can’t do. Frustration follows and reality sinks in. You have lost your ability to move freely and independently.

A few days went by and then it hit me... *I was experiencing what it is like to be disabled.* Is this what some of the kids at Achievement Academy experience every day? Of course, in a different way and with one big difference—my disability had a beginning and ending date. With these kids, you never know when that ending date might be or if there will ever be one. We can’t even imagine what they feel or think. As harsh as this sounds, this is a reality and that’s why our family supports the Achievement Academy.

The children’s disabilities at the school vary in nature and it is hard to compare my condition to theirs. However, the inability to function normally is the main similarity and, to say the least, it is extremely frustrating. At least I can complain about it and it will be over soon. One of my main complaints about the situation was not being able to go where I want to go when I want to. My temporary disability created in me a dependency on other people—thanks to my family for their support and love during this time. The same with the kids at Achievement Academy, they depend on special schools and therapies to improve their well being. I found out first-hand that without additional help, you cannot make it when you are disabled.

I felt a need to share this experience with you. I look at this experience as an opportunity to see the world from the eyes of some special kids. As a parent of a child with special needs, I encourage you to keep promoting the mission of Achievement Academy. Continue supporting this organization... every effort counts. No amount of support is too small. Together we can create brighter futures for children with special needs.



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: _____

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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Strange Happenings at Achievement Academy on October 31!

Who says the kids get to have all the fun?

