

ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
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Paula Sullivan, Executive Dir.

Visit us online at
www.achievementacademy.com



12-13 Board Members

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Janice Jones

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Venessa Daughtrey	Janice Jones
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George Flack	Doug Rich
Pete Frantzis	Luis Unda
Jeanne Hebert	Kim Wilbanks
Chantelle Hrubes	

Thank You...

We would like to thank the following donors for their recent contributions to our capital campaign.



The George W.
Jenkins
Foundation



Dates to Remember:

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 6pm

Spring Break

March 18 thru March 29, 2013

Executive Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, April 10, 11:30am

Rise and Shine Walk

April 6, 2013

Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 6pm

Become a
FAN and
follow us on



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!

We are growing!

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We are extremely excited to announce that Achievement Academy is expanding our Lakeland school to add five more classrooms and serve an additional 55 students. We have reached our capital campaign goal and Rodda Construction will begin renovation soon to have the additional classrooms ready to open for the 2013-14 school year. As Executive Director, Paula Sullivan, states "We have waited a long time for this dream of ours. With over 50 students consistently on our waiting list, we can not wait to be able to provide our services to so many more children with special needs!" We could not have made this happen without the support of our donors and community.

Achievement Academy serves young children through age six with delays and/or disabilities in Pre-K classrooms. Direct, specialized instruction is provided by certified teachers within small class sizes. If needed, physical, speech and occupational therapy is provided as well as vision and hearing services. Those interested in our services may find out more at our website at

www.achievementacademy.com. You may also find the charter school application online. Employment opportunities are also on our website.



Meet Blake, Blake currently receives physical, speech and occupational therapy at Achievement Academy. It is through donations and fundraisers that we are able to provide our therapy services to our students. About half of our students' therapies are not covered by private insurance or Medicaid. Please consider donating today to help provide these needed therapies for children like Blake! With adding 55 additional students, we need YOU! We invite anyone to come visit and see for yourself the miracles that happen everyday at Achievement Academy!

In 2012, Achievement Academy was visited by a committee from Advance Education to evaluate and review the charter school to renew our SACS Accreditation. We are happy to say that our accreditation has been extended to 2018!



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

Hope
**For Brighter Futures
2013 Luncheon**

3rd Annual Hope For Brighter Futures Luncheon

May 29, 2013

An inspiring afternoon dedicated to sharing heartwarming stories, & learning about the how the Achievement Academy impacts our community. RSVP at (863) 683-6504.

~ Where Brighter Futures Begin ~

Board Member Spotlight

Michael Peeples

Board Member since 2009

Michael Peeples was introduced to the Achievement Academy when fellow board member, Janice Jones, invited him to take a tour. He was deeply touched by the children, families, and staff he met. His love for children and desire to give back to his community persuaded him to become involved and he was officially appointed to the board in January 2009. Michael became Board President in August 2012. He works as a Real Estate Developer for Southern Homes and is married to Kathryn Peeples, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Together they have two children, Jackson and Riley. Michael is a Lakeland High School graduate and earned his Master's from Tennessee Technical University. Michael is also active member of the McKeel School Board, Leadership Lakeland Alumni Association and the PCBA. In his free time, Michael enjoys staying active by playing golf and basketball as well as coaching his son's Tee-Ball team.



Pigeon Pull 2013

The 7th Annual Pigeon Pull and Evening Round up was held on February 23rd at S (bar) S Ranch. Shooters enjoyed a great flurry shoot in beautiful Florida weather. Later in the evening, guests enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Bubbaque's and a live band.

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. We sincerely thank our Pigeon Pull Committee, consisting of board members and other volunteers, and our generous sponsors who helped us raise over \$20,000.



Sharing Success By: Lauren Deshazor

Miss Charlie Brown came into this world a bit before I expected her to at eleven weeks premature. From day one, weighing in at a little over two pounds, she worked hard to overcome obstacles and setbacks. Her little body fought hard to meet the NICU requirements for discharge. Before release, I completed a questionnaire provided by LRMC which served as a screening tool to see if Charlie qualified or needed any services offered within our community. A short while after discharge, I received a phone call from Becky Jacklin, an early interventionist in Achievement Academy's Birth to Three Program. After an initial evaluation, Becky began coming to my home once a week to work with Charlie. It was Becky who could see areas where Charlie was delayed and needed help. She suggested additional therapies and helped me to obtain the needed referrals and evaluations for Charlie to begin physical therapy. Becky continued to work with Charlie until she graduated out of the birth to three program. There were no openings at Achievement Academy at that time. It was truly a sad day. Charlie entered Polk County Public School as an ESE Pre-K student on an IEP. After one school year, an opening became available at the academy and what a blessing that was. Charlie was placed in Susan Shipe's class in Lakeland just a bit before her 4th birthday. Charlie was never intellectually



delayed, but her motor skills were very inhibited. Physical therapy was offered on sight at Achievement Academy. This was a huge blessing in itself, as a single mom I did not have time to take off from



work every week to check Charlie out of school to take her to therapy appointments, now she could just get them within the course of her school day. Her teacher would also often incorporate Charlie's weekly exercise into classroom or playground activities. Charlie benefited greatly from this. Miss Susan and Charlie's physical therapist, Miss Connie went out of their way to support Charlie and her efforts. Charlie decided at age five that she wanted to try cheerleading. It was difficult for her, but she has always attempted the hard things. Miss Connie and Miss Susan have both endured the heat of a summer Saturday to come out and support Charlie as she cheered. Their support brought her so much joy and their abundance of encouragement gave her so much confidence in herself. The education that Charlie received while at Achievement Academy gave her a great foundation for kindergarten, but the love and support she received from the staff of gave her what she needed to be able to go out and have confidence and faith in herself to know that she could do whatever she put her mind to. Charlie graduated in June of 2010. She was able to transition out of both ESE and out of her IEP and was placed into a regular classroom. Charlie has since tested and been labeled "gifted" by the Polk County School District and is currently enrolled in the gifted program at her elementary school. "Socially, she is considered to be a leader in the classroom and was even voted class president" states her teacher Tiffany Thenor. I know that her desire to be the best began with the precious staff members of Achievement Academy telling her on every occasion they could that she could do it. I am truly thankful and so blessed to have been able to partner with them for Charlie's early development and education.

Congratulations!



Welcome!

The Achievement Academy is proud to announce and welcome Mrs. Eunice M. Hutto as its new Development Director.

Eunice comes to us from the American Cancer Society where she served as Executive Director for nine years. She has experience in fundraising, donor development, marketing and community outreach. Eunice will oversee the Development Department operations related to Capital Campaigns, Major Gifts, annual appeals, Community Relations, Academy fundraisers and Marketing.

Eunice grew up in Polk County and holds a BA in Sociology from the University of South Florida. She is a National Member of the American Business Women's Association and the Polk County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

We are pleased to have Eunice on board!



In achieving these awards their dedication and commitment to the students and families and their desire to "go above and beyond" with such optimistic attitudes is both recognized and celebrated. Join us in congratulating them on a job well done!

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

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I pledge at the following giving level:

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

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