



Lakeland Campus
716 E. Bella Vista Street
Lakeland, FL 33805
Fax: 863-688-9292

Bartow Campus
695 E. Summerlin Street
Bartow, FL 33830
Fax: 863-534-0798

Winter Haven Campus
2211 28th Street NW
Winter Haven, FL 33880
Fax: 863-968-5016

Phone (All Campuses):
863-683-6504

www.AchievementAcademy.com

John Burton, Executive Director

Cindi Parker-Pearson, Principal



www.facebook.com/PolkAchievementAcademy



@achieveacad



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAKELAND, FL
PERMIT NO. 1

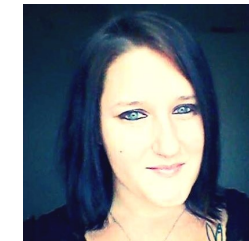


Inside this issue:

Lasting Impacts	1
Board Member Spotlight.....	1
Upcoming Events	2
GiveWell Community Foundation.....	2
2014 Big CUP Golf Tournament.....	2
Spotlight: Maria Lewis	3
Annual Board Meeting Highlights	3
Thank You	4
Dates to Remember	4

APPLAUSE!

Lasting Impacts: Savanna's Story



Tracy Crum noticed that her three-year-old daughter, Savanna, was having trouble speaking. Tests revealed a developmental delay so she enrolled her daughter at Achievement Academy, known as the Child Development Center at the time. There Savanna learned her colors, to write her name, count to 10 and read. At age six, Savanna graduated from Achievement Academy and went on to attend public school.

In middle school, Savanna continued to achieve despite her difficulties, never giving up on her love for education. She received many awards throughout middle school: Academic Achievement Award, High Honors with Distinction, Honor Roll, Principal Award and a Scholarship Award for Science. Twice she received letters from the Florida House of Representatives congratulating her on being selected student of the week. Savanna was extremely nervous entering high school, afraid she would struggle, but she soon realized it wasn't as hard as she thought.

Early on, Savanna discovered her passion for art and drawing. As a 5th grader, her artwork was displayed in the Polk Museum of Art for a year. While in 10th grade she earned her certification in Digital Design from Traviss Career Center, the first year Traviss offered the program. She also successfully earned her certification as an Adobe Certified Associate for Graphic Design and Illustration. Savanna continues to study at Traviss and is working on her certification in Photoshop and InDesign. She is attending Academy of TV Production as well.

"In spite of Savanna's challenges she has never given up and has always tried to pursue her dreams," Tracy said admiringly. "I couldn't be more proud of my daughter."

We're proud, too, of Savanna and all of our children!

Board Member Spotlight: Sam Houghton

Sam Houghton, of Houghton, PA, is a business attorney and entrepreneurial consultant based in Lakeland. Sam joined the board of the Achievement Academy in 2013 and currently serves as our 1st Vice President. Recently he served as chair of the Golf Committee for the 2014 Achievement Academy Big CUP Golf Tournament, which was a huge success.



Sam and his wife, Stacy, have three children, Samuel (6), Ben (4) and Libby (2). Sam was born and raised in Lakeland where he currently lives. He is a devoted member of Christ Community Presbyterian Church and enjoys golfing and fishing, when he can find the time. Sam says, "I am honored to serve on the Achievement Academy Board," Sam said, "and consider it to have the greatest purpose of any non-profit in all of Polk County."

2014-2015 Board Members

President
Janice Jones

1st Vice President
Sam Houghton

2nd Vice President
Chandra Frederick

Secretary
Mark Miller

Treasurer
Margaret Cox

Immediate Past President
Michael Peeples

Casey Compton
Steve Earley
George Flack
Jeanne Hebert
Randy Hollen
Yadira Holmes
Chantelle Hrubes

Brad Johnson
Sam Johnson
Austin Jones
Gilit Kontny
Jamie Sturgill
Courtney Wade
Kim Wilbanks

Thank You!

To the following donors and
community partners

The George W. Jenkins Fund within the
GiveWell Community Foundation

Publix Super Markets Charities

The Denis L. Fontaine Foundation, Inc.

The Glenn W. and Hazel Paxson
Morrison Foundation

The Hilda Sutton and William D. Blanton
Charitable Foundation

Lakeland South Rotary Club

Mosaic

Dates to Remember

Winter Break
December 22, 2014-January 2, 2015

Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday
Friday, January 16, 2015

Holiday (Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Day)
Monday, January 19, 2015

Executive Committee Meetings
Monday, January 12, 2015
Monday, February 9, 2015

Board Meetings
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Rise and Shine Walk for Kids
Saturday, April 18, 2015

Top Chef of Polk County
Monday, April 20, 2015

**Interested in taking a tour of our
campus?** Please call 863-683-6504
to schedule an appointment.

Did you know that the Achievement Academy has a Wish List?

Items on the wish list are hand-selected
by our teachers and therapists to
help students reach their developmental
goals. For more information, please
visit our website and click on the
"Wish List" button.



Mosaic in Bartow donated \$10,000 to Achievement Academy for their 10th Anniversary Celebration.
Thank you Mosaic!

Upcoming Events—For More Information Call 863-683-6504

RISE & SHINE WALK FOR KIDS
Saturday, April 18, 2015 – 8 am,
First Presbyterian Church at Lake
Hollingsworth. Come out to walk and
enjoy fun and games, while supporting
the Achievement Academy.

HOPE FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES
LUNCHEON - Wednesday, May 13,
2015 – 11:30 am, Lone Palm Golf
Club. Community supporters gather
for a special lunch program to raise
funds to provide therapies for
children attending Achievement
Academy.



~ ANNOUNCING A NEW ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY EVENT ~

TOP CHEF OF POLK COUNTY – Monday, April 20, 2015 – 6 pm,
The Lakeland Center. Due to the overwhelming appeal of
great food as featured on today's television programming,
increasingly high-profile chefs are being recognized for their
culinary genius. That energy, excitement and epicurean entrees
are coming to Polk County! The Achievement Academy is
proud to announce a new and fun-filled event: "Top Chef of Polk County,"
which places the spotlight on the area's leading chefs while raising funds for
the Achievement Academy. This is a one-of-a-kind event! As many as 15 of Polk
County's premier chefs will be invited to participate in this culinary extravaganza
– with each chef creating their own menu and preparing tableside a five-course
meal with accompanying wine (or other libations) for a table of 12. Each Chef will
create an ambience as unique as their culinary creations. This is a night, and
an experience, that will not be forgotten!

Thank You George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation!



(L-R) John Burton, Executive Director Achievement Academy;
Johnna Martinez, Grants Manager GiveWell Community Foundation;
Michael Peeples, Achievement Academy Board President; Mark
Miller, Board Secretary; Janice Jones, Board First Vice President .

The Achievement Academy recently received two grants of
\$50,000 each, the first in May and the second in July, from the
George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation.
The two grants will help support the Achievement Academy's Birth
to Three Program and its Charter School.

"It is amazing to us that the spirit of George W. Jenkins and the
culture he created continue to impact our community, in general,
and our organization, in particular, in such a major and meaningful
way," said Achievement Academy Executive Director John
Burton. "We gratefully acknowledge such significant support
and enthusiastically express our sincere appreciation for the
positive impact this will have on the children and families we serve
on a daily basis."

Achievement
ACADEMY
BIG CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT!

The Achievement Academy's Big CUP Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, November
20th at Lone Palm Golf Club. Prior to teeing off, players were introduced to Jillyan McGraw,
and had the opportunity to listen to her testimony about her sons, Aidan and Ethan, and the
obstacles they have faced due to Aidan and Ethan's premature births.

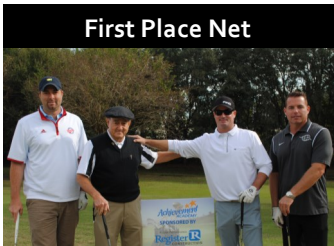
For the first time in Polk County, players had the opportunity to play the "big cup." Each
hole, with the lone exception of the Hole-In-One Contest, was 15 inches in diameter instead
of regulation size (4 1/4 inches). "We all know that a little help can make a big difference,"
said tournament chair and board member, Sam Houghton. "And with a little help from tour-
nament participants, sponsors and concerned community members, we can make a big
difference in the life of a child with special needs."

After play, participants enjoyed cocktails and dinner served by Lone Palm and bid on silent
auction items. It was a beautiful day and a great time was had by all. Congratulations to the
Gross and Net Winners, Team Jenkins Motorsports and Team Rodney Brenneman.

At the end of the day, over \$42,000 was raised, thanks to all our sponsors, participants and
volunteers. A special Thank You to our Presenting Sponsor, **Day & Night Tire** and **J.**
Burns Pizza; and to our Participating Sponsor, **GEICO**. We appreciate you!



Team Jenkins Motorsports



Team Rodney Brenneman

~ Our Mission ~

Assist children with special needs to reach their maximum potential
by providing quality education, therapy and family support.

Spotlight: Maria Lewis

Maria Lewis has joined the staff at Achievement Academy as the new Development Director. She has
more than 20 years of professional experience with nonprofit organizations working in program services
and specializing in fundraising and development. Prior to joining the Achievement Academy staff, Maria
served as Development Director at Champions for Children in Tampa. She is a graduate of the University
of Central Florida in Business Administration with a Marketing major. Maria also has extensive community
involvement, including numerous leadership positions. Welcome, Maria!



Annual Meeting Highlights

At our recent Annual Meeting of board members and staff, several members of the community were presented awards for
their service to Achievement Academy. Don Selvage, who donated countless hours assisting in the search for our new Exec-
utive Director, received the John F. Schneider, Sr. Volunteer Service Award (for individuals).

Representatives from BB&T Bank and Kohl's Department Store were present to receive the Doris Trohn Volunteer Service
Award (for organizations). BB&T Bank employees spent several days this summer pressure-washing the buildings at all three
of our campuses in Lakeland, Bartow and Winter Haven. Kohl's Department Store associates helped clean and organize
classrooms during the summer break and assisted with our Fall Festival.

CliftonLarsonAllen was also recognized for their generous donation of furniture and equipment for our new/remodeled build-
ings. Thank you Don, BB&T Bank, Kohl's Associates and CliftonLarsonAllen!

We also welcomed new board members Yadira Holmes, Brad Johnson and Jamie Sturgill. Welcome!



L-R: Don Selvage, Paula Sullivan,
Michael Peeples



L-R: Sandy Littles of BB&T
Bank; Michael Peeples



L-R: Paula Sullivan; Gary Schwartz
& Scott McKinley of Kohl's



L-R: Jamie Sturgill, Yadira Holmes,
Brad Johnson

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

Make A Donation

Donations may be made by check, credit card or billed. To donate by check please complete the
form below and return to: **Achievement Academy, 716 E. Bella Vista St., Lakeland, FL 33805.** To
donate by credit card, please go to our secure website at www.AchievementAcademy.com and click on
the green **Make a Donation** button. Also, please consider Achievement Academy in your will.

For more information, please contact: Maria Lewis, Director of Development; Maria@AchievementAcademy.com; 863-683-6504.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day-time Phone: _____ ☐ Check enclosed for \$ _____

Email: _____

☐ I would like more information about the Achievement Academy. Please contact me.



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING
TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.