



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN OF MANATEE COUNTY

Take Stock Times

SCHOLARSHIPS, MENTORS, & HOPE

FALL 2009

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Kiwanis of Lakewood Ranch

Sherry Berry
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State College of Florida

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Kelly Gettel
Gettel Automotive

Elaine Graham
Mentor Ambassador

Brenda Harvey
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Gaining Momentum



A Note from Program Director Diana Dill

Greetings! What an exciting time of year. Every autumn is filled with anticipation and renewed energy in setting goals for the school year. This newsletter is one of our goals to improve communication to you, our stakeholders.

We're growing! Over the past three years we have grown by 40% in the number of students we serve. The momentum is amazing with a great sense of commitment from our Leadership Council, school district staff, and volunteer mentors who make it all happen. Thank you for your involvement and

support in providing scholarships, mentors and hope to the children and families of Manatee County. Together we are making a difference by raising 1.3 million in scholarships. Our mentors have increased to 200 volunteers donating over 4,000 hours per year! Join the fun, contact us today to help with our special fundraising events—the Leadership Prayer Breakfast and the 10K run/walk. All of our scholarship dollars raised are matched by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation to double the impact.



Leadership Council members (L-R) Doug Wagner, Alex Chavez, Brenda Harvey, Paul Sharff, Kelly Gettel, Sean Grosso (USF), Elaine Graham, Michael Corley, Patricia Ramirez (SCF), Andrew Reddish, Walter Miller, Lori Mirandilla, Steven Cecil and Diana Dill. Not pictured: Julie Aranibar, Sherry Berry, Curtis Davis, Kris Kennedy, Sandy Haas-Martens, Tony Templeton, and Dr. Steven Tinsworth.

Special Thanks to Suncoast for Kids Foundation!



We greatly appreciate the Suncoast for Kids Foundation's quick response to renew as the official Finish Line Sponsor of the Take Stock 10K Run/Walk. This year is sure to be bigger and better than ever! Please mark your calendar for Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 7:30 a.m., Lakewood Ranch Main Street.

Student Ambassador

Jessica Amaya is like a ray of sunshine for TSIC. This bubbly and bright Southeast High School junior was recently selected to fulfill the role of Student Ambassador for the 2009/2010 school year.



Jessica is clearly relishing her newly appointed leadership position where she has already served as a greeter at the TSIC fall breakfast meeting. Jessica

explains, "I introduced myself at the meeting and talked about my goals for the future. I shared how having a mentor has allowed me to be more focused on my education and less worried about attending college. My mentor is a really important person in my life. She inspires me to think about other views and options and supports me in my after school activities. She's always there for me."

Jane Young is the wonderful mentor that Jessica meets with each week.

Dates to Note:

- November 11
Veterans Day (no school)
- November 12
Reception for TSIC President Maria Sastre
- November 25—27
Thanksgiving holiday
- December 3
Progress Reports
- December 21
Holiday break begins
- February 4
3rd annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast
- March 7
2nd annual 10K Run/Walk in Lakewood Ranch

Current Events

New Look!

Take Stock in Children has a new look. Our new logo represents hope and new opportunities for our program.



National Focus

Our state president, Maria Sastre, has visited with the Obama Administration to discuss taking our program to a national level. The Florida program has proven success over the past 14 years and would serve as the model for a national program! Just imagine what our future would look like with Take Stock in America! Please join us on Thursday, November 12th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Manatee County School District Professional Services Center to give Maria a warm reception as she visits Manatee County. The address is 2501 63rd Avenue East, Bradenton, at the corner of U.S. 301 across from Flowers Bakery.

Mentor Spotlight on Elaine Graham

Keeping connected after retirement is not a challenge for Take Stock In Children mentor Elaine Graham. Elaine, a former Manatee County educator and curriculum developer, gave a lot of thought to as to how to spend her retirement. “I chose mentoring because it’s an easy way to make a difference. I chose Take Stock In Children because it offers a student an opportunity to attend college. I value education and mentoring suits me. It’s a pleasure to be a mentor and it’s been a very positive experience. I am doing something to make things better, one student at a time.”

This year Elaine was selected to be

TSIC’s Mentor Ambassador. As such, Elaine acts as a resource person for new mentors and guides them as they navigate the process and transition into a comfortable routine. What is Elaine’s secret to success? “Be patient and be kind,” she says. “Office staff have many responsibilities and are always multitasking. An unexpected small treat such as a piece of chocolate or a little card tells the staff ‘I thought about you’ and goes a long way. Ultimately our goal is to support the students so they can meet their goals and fulfill their potential and dreams. We are all one team.”



**Mentor and mentee:
Elaine Graham and
Julie Billy**

Student Spotlight on Julie Billy

Southeast High School junior Julie Billy is a goal-oriented, organized and self-motivated young woman who truly appreciates her Take Stock In Children scholarship. “I knew from the beginning I didn’t want to lose it. Having the scholarship means I have so much less to worry about. I’ve always wanted to go to college and now I know I can.”

Julie keeps busy with many activities.

There’s volleyball, soccer and friends. There’s also the International Baccalaureate Program, the Student Government Association, and the Television Production Club. Julie thrives on performing community service and always finds time for her mentor, Elaine Graham. “I like having someone to talk to. We talk about school and we review what’s going on and we make plans so I can have a nice job, a nice career.” Julie’s goals include attending USF, FSU or St. Leo’s University where she will major in architecture and business.



Straight from the Heart

Kelly Gettel has always felt strongly about making a difference and supporting children, and that's exactly what makes her commitment to TSIC such a good fit. Kelly, a three-year veteran of the TSIC Leadership Council,

brings energy and enthusiasm to the board along with a strong desire to help children achieve their goals and dreams.

"I wear whatever hat is necessary to meet the demands of the day and get the job done," Kelly said. Kelly's appreciation of physical fitness and staying active, along with her desire to grow the TSIC program, evolved into last year's introduction

of the TSIC 10K Run/Walk. This fabulous event garnered over \$73,000.00 to support scholarship opportunities while raising community awareness of the program.

"Investing in a child is investing in our community's future," Kelly said. "By providing college and vocational scholarships, we are teaching children the value of education, discipline, and the need to obtain and reach goals. The program comes full circle when the students return to the community with a career and a desire to mentor others. It is so rewarding to see the fruits of our efforts."

Thank you Kelly and the Gettel Automotive Group for choosing Take Stock in Children.

College Spotlight on Emanuel Leon

TSIC alumni Emanuel Leon is well on his way to making his dreams come true. Thanks to TSIC, mentors Mike Bryant and Rick Fawley, and Emanuel's hard work, he is now enrolled full time at Hillsborough Community College.

"I'm doing great! I'm taking five classes this semester. I have my main courses and two architectural classes." Emanuel continues, "I learned so much from Mr. Bryant and Mr. Fawley! Thanks to them I am in a program that is better suited to what I was looking for and I'm getting a real jump start on meeting my goals!"

"I can't say enough about my mentors," Emanuel continued. They're great! They help me any possible way they can. They taught me so much in so many different ways. They

supported me and inspired me. In fact, they are still mentoring me. I am so grateful to them for everything."

Emanuel is working diligently towards

owning his own architectural firm by the time he is thirty. "I see myself accomplishing my goal," he says, "and then I will give back by mentoring other students. Whether it's a head start or a hand up, I will be a mentor."



Emmanuel Leon and Mike Bryant

Coordinator Corner: Kelli Kennedy

Braden River High School Academic Advisor Kelli Kennedy goes the extra mile. As the TSIC liaison, Kelly creates a comfort zone for both visiting TSIC mentors and their "Pirates," a.k.a. mentees. How does she do it?

"When we have new mentors come on board, I like to personally welcome them and walk them through the sign-in process," said Kelli. "I make sure they have an office where they can meet with their mentee and I answer any questions they have. It's important for the mentors to be comfortable with the process as well as to maintain student safety and success."

Kelli also welcomes mentors to visit her office in the Academic and Career Center. Here, they can peruse the many different opportunities and choices that students face as they

navigate their high school career and future. Kelli shares a great tip with mentors in the Career Center: to log on take a look at the Florida Department of Education website, particularly the Choices Explore and Facts.org pages. "It's a great way for the mentor to break the ice with the student and it helps them to get thinking about the future," stated Kelli.

Providing a quiet meeting environment, offering jumping off points to create meaningful dialogue, and having Kelli Kennedy to personally answer mentor questions—now that's going the extra mile. Thank you, Kelli!



Mentors—Here’s One to Try

Students have recently received their first report cards. For middle school students and high school freshmen, this month may be a good time to talk about those subjects in which they were successful and those that require improvement. Explore the available school resources (help from teachers, tutoring services, and online resources) with your student and the methods for accessing these resources. Toolkit Activity #65, *Using a Daily Planner*, and Activity #67, *Homework Tips for Students*, might be helpful to complete.

- **9th grade mentors:** Remind mentees to begin saving examples of their best work, certificates, awards, etc. to include in a student portfolio.
- **10th grade mentors:** Encourage your mentees to become involved in a community service organization, club, or

sport. All high schools have a Key Club. To reinforce positive work habits, look at Toolkit Activity #71, *How to Take Good Notes in Class*.

- **11th grade mentors:** You may want to utilize Toolkit Activity #62, *Time Management*, to assist mentees.
- **12th grade mentors:** In addition to their school course work, seniors have the pressure of preparing college applications. Activity #36, *Senior Year Task List*, is a good reference for discussion.



Take Stock in Children of Manatee County

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Scholarships, Mentors, & Hope

YOU can help!

We welcome donations and mentor volunteers.
 Visit our website to find out more.

www.TakeStockManatee.com



Would you like education or mentoring to be part of your legacy? Please add Take Stock in Children to your will or planned giving and ensure children will receive HOPE for their future.



2010 LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST
 MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Mark Your Calendars for our
3rd Annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast
 February 4, 2010 Bradenton Municipal Auditorium
 Mr. Alex Chavez, Event Chairperson

Sponsorships Available

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what’s happening around the District in the Adult, Career & Technical Education Department. To view past issues, visit www.ManateeACT.com and click **News**.



The Transition Times, ACT Update, Spotlight on Success, Take Stock In Children, Manatee Stars, Tech Prep Expressions, Inquizikidz, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, Technical Education Today