



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN OF MANATEE COUNTY

Take Stock Times

SCHOLARSHIPS, MENTORS, & HOPE

SUMMER 2010

Leadership Council

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Kiwanis of Lakewood Ranch

Sherry Berry
PepsiCo

Dr. Don Bowman
State College of Florida

Alex Chavez
Community Leader

Steven Cecil
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Sharff Family Charitable
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The Templeton Foundation

Dr. Steven Tinsworth
Tinsworth Orthodontics

Doug Wagner
Manatee County Schools

Amazing Community; Remarkable Progress

A Note from Executive Director Diana Dill

What an amazing community we live in. Our Take Stock in Children program has grown 95% over the past four years! This has only been possible because of the dedicated volunteers and generous donors that choose to support us. We are very grateful and appreciative of all the folks that spend time mentoring and serving on our leadership council and fundraising committees, as well as for our sponsors, donors, and school staff. Their investment of resources from our community is making a difference in the lives of our children and their families. Thank you for being a part of the Take Stock in Manatee team.

Our school year is filled with serving 350 students in middle school, high school and college. Nearly 200 mentors dedicate countless hours to ensure the success of their students. Alex Chavez championed our 3rd Annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast. Kelly Gettel and Lori Mirandilla rallied the 2nd Annual Take Stock 10K in Lakewood Ranch.

Our special events and key sponsorships from Kiwanis of Bradenton, Suncoast Schools Credit Union, Pro Field Services and Gettel Automotive make awarding scholarships possible. The Take Stock in Children Leadership Council continues to provide vision and motivation to bring this college scholarship and mentoring opportunity to more deserving students. Please join us.



10K Race winner--PHS JROTC student Joe Rebella

SCF Partners with Take Stock

Scholarships and Summer Programs

We would like to extend a special thanks to State College of Florida (SCF) representatives for recently hosting a tour and registration session for the 21 graduating TSIC seniors. At that time all seniors were given the opportunity to apply for an SCF scholarship for use in addition to their TSIC scholarship. This funding provides students with the means to purchase books and other needed supplies.

Another big thank you goes to SCF for offering the Summer Bridge Program to our TSIC graduates. All cost of credits, books, materials and even a free lunch each day is given to our students while attending college class Monday through Thursday during the seven-week program. The goal of the program includes academic and college success, skill development, career and financial awareness, educational planning, and the attainment of up to six college credits!

Dates to Note:

- June 9th
Last day of school
- June 23rd—August 3rd
Summer Bridge Program at State College of Florida
- August 23rd
First day of school



Congratulations Graduates!

Student	School	Mentor
Mariella Barragan	SEHS	Susan Frey
Roosevelt Brooks	PHS	Moody Johnson
Fernando Capula	MHS	Walter Miller
Racquel Cline	SEHS	Shawna Taylor
Naomy Davila	SEHS	Nikki Sexton
Ludger Denis	SEHS	Paul Tradelius
Kristina Didas	BHS	Chris Putnam
Pauline Fotu	BRHS	Margo Glover
Angela Garcia	SEHS	Helen Dolbec
Rashay Graham	SEHS	Terrence Palmer
Daniel Hird	LRHS	Mark Campbell
Eric Honan	PHS	Lynda Elkin
Liliana Ibarra	LRHS	Katie Klomp
Ira Johnson	MHS	Mary Miller
Craig Keys	BHS	Napoleon Mills
Casellie Obsaint	SEHS	Alceste Gallo
Lindsey Price	PHS	Lynda Elkin
Joshua Senften	BRHS	Larry Bell
Michael Warren	BRHS	Tim Passmore
Kayla Williams	MHS	Betty Gmeinder

Mentor Spotlight on Moody Johnson

Stepping into the Mentor Spotlight is Mr. Moody Johnson. Moody has been mentoring for TSIC for three years. “I love children,” Moody explained. “I like to maintain a relationship with the students and help them be the best they can be. There’s no real trick to it. I give them the honest truth about life and an example to follow.”

“It gives me a good feeling to know my student is willing to listen and apply new knowledge,” Moody continued. “Watching them grow and mature into young adults with a bright future is very rewarding. I know that when you do the right thing, good things will happen.”

Moody shared his RARE philosophy with his TSIC mentee. “RARE is about **R**espect—for self and others. **A**ttitude—know that it will determine how far you go. **R**esponsibility—for yourself and

your actions, and **E**ducation — academics show us where we belong and where to put our trust.”

“It’s about family, community, and God,” Moody said. “Good character wins out. Mentoring is an opportunity to look inside yourself and make the world a better place. Mentoring helps a young adult cross that bridge. Why be selfish when you can make a difference?”

Thank you, Moody, for mentoring, making a difference, setting an example, and supporting our youth as they cross that bridge and transition into successful and productive young adults.



Student Spotlight on Jennifer Luong



Jennifer Luong is in her fourth year as a TSIC mentee. Jennifer explained, “I started when I was in eighth grade at Sugg Middle School. Right now I am a junior at Bayshore High School (BHS). What I like most about TSIC is that it is giving me the opportunity to go to college after high school. I also like having a mentor.”

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Jennifer’s mentor, is the ESE Coordinator at BHS. “My mentor is really amazing,” Jennifer shared. “We plan things out together and we can talk about anything from school to home life.”

Jennifer maintains an incredibly active school calendar in addition to her regular classes. She is president of Key Club, vice president of National Honor Society, and vice president of History Club. She is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and Health Club. Jennifer did find time to participate in the TSIC 10K Run event. “That was a lot of fun,” she said.

“I am really interested in chemistry,” Jennifer explained. Future plans include attending college to study pharmaceutical sciences. She states, “When I get older I definitely plan on becoming a mentor. I want to be involved and make a difference for someone else.”

Meet Your Leadership Council

Dr. Steve Tinsworth has been serving our community as an orthodontist for over 25 years. He also serves as President of the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton. Among Dr. Tinsworth’s many community service activities, he serves on our TSIC Board of Directors and is chairing the 2011 Leadership Prayer Breakfast. Dr. Tinsworth shared his thoughts on TSIC’s focus of mentoring and providing scholarships.

“The process is so wonderful. TSIC provides a mechanism to help nourish these special kids to rise above their personal situation to succeed. It is a message to all kids and parents of what wonderful opportunities are available if you set a goal and

give it your best. I encourage teachers and parents to learn more about TSIC and to look at how they can contribute time as mentors as well as financial resources to increase our opportunity to fund more scholarships. It makes a difference to our community and to our country to provide encouragement to excel in all areas of life.”

A big “thank you” to Dr. Tinsworth for your support of TSIC!



Straight from the Heart

TSIIC board member Alex Chavez is a strong supporter of education, family, and helping disadvantaged children. Alex recently served as Chairman for the 3rd annual TSIC Leadership Prayer Breakfast.

Alex explained, "We had almost seven hundred people in attendance at the Bradenton Municipal Auditorium where FSU Seminole's football coach Bobby Bowden was our guest speaker. Our day actually started at 4:00 a.m. when we flew up to Tallahassee to pick Bobby up. I was able to find sponsors for both the Learjet and for his speaking engagement fee so that the \$35,000 dollars raised went directly towards funding scholarships." (Our appreciation goes to Dolphin Aviation for providing the air travel!)

"I'm fairly good at raising money and working with

TSIC gives me the opportunity to give back as a businessman to the community," he continued. "I believe in the old proverb 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.' Nothing is more important than education and children are our future, so what better way to give back?"

"My goal is to grow TSIC by raising more money to put back into education," Alex said. "I would also like to increase community, school board, and legislature involvement. We all need to get involved and give of our time, self, and energy. If not us then who? If not now then when?"



College Spotlight on Jennifer Berry

The year was 1998 when Southeast High School freshman Jennifer Berry was accepted into the TSIC program. Jennifer was a successful student in honors classes and JROTC, but she lacked the funds to further her education. Through TSIC, Jennifer was able to complete high school without the burden of worrying about where the financing for her college education was going to come from. Together Jennifer and her mentor researched college opportunities and it was a proud day when she received her acceptance letter.

Flash forward to 2010 and Jennifer is now a college graduate with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is also a seasoned teacher with a résumé that boasts four years experience teaching Pre-K. "I am so thankful to TSIC

for giving me the opportunity to pursue my college education and ease my worries about finances. With TSIC's help, I was able to focus my efforts on my education."

Jennifer is currently devoting her time and energy into nurturing her family and being the best mother she can be to Reid, her seven year old adopted son from Russia, and Hunter, her six week old newborn. "I want to thank TSIC for the opportunity to make my goals come true," Jennifer shared. "As a teacher in the community, I will always be able to give back to the community what the community gave to me."



Coordinator Corner: Lynda Elkin

Palmetto High School Academic Advisor Lynda Elkin works quietly behind the scenes to make sure each and every mentor and mentee feels comfortable and welcome. How does she do it? Lynda

explained, "I maintain telephone or email contact with the mentors. We talk about the student's schedule, upcoming activities, learning strategies, and academic status. This way I can make sure the student is being supported."

Lynda continued, "If you are a new mentor (and I am always looking to recruit new mentors) and feeling a bit

apprehensive or insecure, I will work with you until you develop a comfort level. It's also important to show appreciation to every mentor because we really appreciate their time and the guidance and support that they give to their mentees."

Lynda has been mentoring for TSIC for three years and is also active in fundraising for TSIC. "I like to know that I have helped change the student's future," she explained. "I want them to be successful through high school, college, and into their adult life."

Thank you, Lynda, for creating a warm and welcoming environment dedicated to supporting the PHS TSIC mentors and mentees!

Mentors—Here's One to Try



It is always a good idea to help mentees review techniques for positive goal setting and organization. Two activities that address these topics and offer a helpful format for discussion can be found in our Mentor Toolkit. Activity #8, Evaluating Your Academic Goals, on page 11, will help students begin to think about and put down on paper some concrete goals. Using Activity #63, Time Management Assessment, found on page 77, may then provide a good follow up to assist with exploring strategies to accomplish those goals.

If your mentee is new to the goal setting process, before taking on the above activities you may want to begin with a generic discussion to include some goal setting basics. To the right, I've included an excerpt from the book, "Connections," by Kathy Faggella and Janet Horowitz that provides this information.

A goal is simply an end result or achievement for which you've worked.

1. Make each goal realistic. Can you really achieve the goal if you work at it?

Make each goal a bit challenging.

2. A goal should be within reach with hard work and consistent effort.

Give each goal a realistic deadline.

3. Use specific time frames such as, "I will write that report this Thursday and get it in on Friday."

State each goal specifically and positively. Don't use words like "I'll try" which are not specific or strong enough.

4. "I will take the Driver's Ed course in February and get my license in April."

Work to make each big goal attainable by breaking it into smaller steps.

5. Think back to when you first learned to ride a bike. At the beginning you may have needed to use training wheels. Next, you may have been able to ride with someone holding the bike lightly. Finally, you could ride alone. Each stage was a success and helped you toward that final goal of riding alone.

*Wishing you positive and productive times with your mentees!
Sara Gold, Retired Mentor Coordinator*



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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.

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**.



Transition Times, ACT Update, Spotlight on Success, Take Stock In Children, Manatee Stars, Career Pathways, Careers in Action, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, Technical Education Today