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Partners

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS IN BROWARD *In Education*

Community Involvement Awards

The 2011 Community Involvement Awards (CIA) was held at Parker Playhouse on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. The new venue proved to be quite successful. With the reduced ticket price of \$15 per person, schools were able to continue the practice of inviting and honoring all their key parents, volunteers, mentors and business partner representatives. More than 1,100 people were in attendance including School Board Members, District and Area Office leadership, sponsors and school personnel.

The CIA event is held annually to

honor the Mentors of the Year, Volunteers of the Year, Partnerships of the Year and the Parent Involvement Program of the Year.

The highlight of the event is always the student performers. This year, the Bayview Elementary Chorus, Robert Todd, Music Instructor, and the Everglades High School Chorus, Shanpatrick Davis, Coral Director, entertained attendees.

Special thanks also go to our wonderful Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Charles Webster, Coordinator, Public Relations & Government Affairs.

The winners of the 2011 School-Based Partnership of the Year Award were:

Nova Blanche Forman Elementary with Feeding South Florida (South Area)

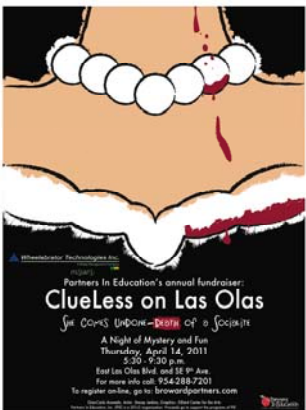
Bennett Elementary with Christ Church (Central Area)

South Plantation High with City of Plantation (Central Area)

Sawgrass Springs Middle with Youth Environmental Alliance (North Area)

See program descriptions beginning on page three.

ClueLess on Las Olas



Thank you to all who made the 2011 ClueLess on Las Olas a successful fundraiser. Not only do we owe a debt of gratitude to all the sponsors and volunteers without whom PIE could not hold the event, but also a special thanks goes to all of the loyal participants for playing the game every year.

This year, particular attention was paid to the names of those registered and we were delighted to learn just how many of you are Broward County Public School employees. It is gratifying to know that school and District personnel support this fundraiser.

ClueLess raised approximately \$16,000 net profit. This profit is used to fund the Targeted Recruitment

Program. Each of the last three years, PIE has contracted with retired principal, Diana O'Malley, to recruit partnerships for a select group of schools. By working with a small number of schools, Ms. O'Malley is able to stay with the partnerships throughout the school year to ensure that they are well established. Remaining funds support the Website and the production of materials such as Certificates of Appreciation, Window Decals, and School and Business Manuals.

A list of ClueLess and other fundraising sponsors are provided on page two. Visit our Website (www.browardpartners.com/fundraisers.htm) for a complete wrap-up.

Message from the Director



Nina Randall, APR
Executive Director

As I look back on the 2010-2011 school year, I am deeply grateful for many things.

After 27 years and the deepest recession in decades, I am grateful that Partners In Education (PIE) continues to enjoy strong support in schools and the community.

I am also grateful for and wish to send a huge “Thank You” to all the dedicated school and business partner liaisons who manage partnerships for their respective organizations. Without them, there would be no Partners In Education.

Gratitude also goes to the PIE board of directors. This group of dedicated business leaders contributes their time and resources because they believe that school-based partnerships improve the lives of children.

And finally, I am grateful that, during this difficult year, there are partnerships and volunteers whose efforts continue to inspire and motivate me.

To all the school and partner staff, have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you in schools next year.

Sponsors of PIE Programs

Special thanks go to all the businesses that sponsor PIE fundraisers and the Community Involvement Awards.

PIE fundraising sponsors include: **ClueLess Title Sponsor:** Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., **Signature Sponsors:** Coventry Healthcare Plans, The Miami Herald, **Super Sleuth Sponsor:** Humana, **Private Eye Sponsors:** After School Programs, All County Music, Bank of America, BrightStar Credit Union, Comcast, Harmony Development, Holland & Knight, Memorial Healthcare Systems, Nova Southeast University/Fischler School of Education and Human Services, Pearson, Publix Super Markets, Inc., **Gumshoe Sponsors:** Dave & Busters, Disney, Florida Panthers, Grolsch/Stephens Distributing, Las Olas

Association, Logo Shirts, Mangos, Muvico, Premier Beverages, Sixth Star Entertainment, Southwest Airlines, and Turner Construction.

The Community Involvement Awards program sponsors are: **Silver Sponsors:** After School Programs Inc., BrightStar Credit Union, Florida Power & Light, Holy Cross Hospital, Pearson, Sunshine Child Care, **Copper Sponsors:** Florida Marlins, Hinson Office Supply, Keiser University, Publix Charities. **Bronze Sponsors:** All County Music and AutoNation.

Please join me in recognizing these outstanding community minded organizations.

TIP OF THE MONTH – Show Appreciation



The year is almost over and community involvement programs are winding down. Hopefully, School Partner Liaisons and their business/community partner representatives have already met to wrap-up the year by evaluating activities and making decisions as to which activities will be carried forward into next year and which may be abandoned for newer activities more relevant to the upcoming school year's goals.

While you go through this process, it is always beneficial to take time to not only celebrate your success, but to also personally thank the Business/Community Partner Liaisons who are

instrumental to the partnership process.

Some ideas for thanking your Business/Community Liaisons are:

- Partners In Education Certificates of Appreciation
- Letter of appreciation to the person's supervisor
- Token gift from the school, such as a framed piece of student art
- Thank you letters from students

Remember, it's always easier to keep existing partners than it is to recruit new ones.

Community Involvement Awards continued from page 1

Nova Blanche Forman Elementary with Feeding South Florida

The Nova Blanche Forman Elementary School (NBFE) and Feeding South Florida partnership addressed hunger in the community. Learning activities included researching hunger issues, analyzing information and applying data to local situations. Students toured the local food bank where they interviewed administrators, employees and clients to understand the process of sharing food supplies. Students organized information and conclusions to create podcasts that were presented on the in-school television system.

Although NBFE students donated 2,789 non-perishable items over 5 years, the partnership has developed into much more than a food drive. Through a service-learning grant, all 800 students created and sold ceramic bowls and hosted a soup meal to bring attention to hunger in Broward County. They raised more than \$9,000 to date. This year, eighteen first graders and twenty-two fourth graders researched issues, toured the food bank and a soup kitchen, and led the school body in activities such as the hunger awareness activity. Groups were given snacks representative of the percentage of poor, middle class and

wealthy populations. As students reacted to their situation, it was most touching to hear several of the “wealthy” declare that they would share their snacks! Another activity planned by students was a school-wide “Good Deed Drive.” Anyone who documented three good deeds could place a leaf, with their name and details, on a “Good Deed Tree” located in the cafeteria.



Representing the Nova Blanche Forman partnership are (from the left) Ann Murray, School Board Member District 1, Anthea Pennant, Judith Gatti, Janet Calamaro Intern Principal and Pamela Brown

Bennett Elementary and Christ Church

The partnership between Christ Church and Bennett Elementary began with a program called “Carry-Out for Kids.” The goal was to feed hungry children over the weekend and during long vacations. Bags of food were provided to more than 45 families at Bennett and 50 families at Sunrise Middle School every week. Christ Church members also brought hot meals to families on Thanksgiving.

Christ Church conducted a school beautification program called “Serve Everybody.” Volunteers delivered and planted spectacular trees and flowering plants beautifying both campuses. They celebrated teachers by providing breakfast just to say, “Thanks for educating children.” They donated school supplies so that teachers would have them on hand in their classrooms and individual bags for children without the means to afford supplies. Christ Church also provided hundreds of power snacks for Bennett students to have during FCAT testing.

The newest partnership activity at Bennett was “Reading Buddies” to help increase academic skills in children struggling with reading. Christ Church volunteers worked with a small group of students on a weekly basis.

The partnership with Christ Church has improved the quality of life for the children at Bennett Elementary and

Sunrise Middle. More than \$30,000 worth of food has gone to 95 families this year alone and \$6,000 in materials were purchased for the beautification projects plus the value of the donated time workers spent to complete the landscaping. Most importantly, Bennett’s children have become better readers. Bennett saw an average increase in reading levels of 6 months for those children working with



Representing the Bennett Elementary partnership are (front row from the left) Ann Murray, School Board Member District 1, Maggie Hamberger, Ana Ortiz, Yvonne Womack and (back row from the left) Julie Hamill, Fawn Mikel, Melissa Holtz, Intern Principal, Chris Carney, Principal, Es Campbell; Row 3 - Pat Burton, Vanessa Caneus, Cathy Cirillo

Community Involvement Awards continued from page 3

South Plantation High with City of Plantation

The City of Plantation has partnered with the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program at South Plantation High for nine years. They provide landscaping mentors, planting opportunities and fund an environmental scholarship. Architects from the City and city-sponsored Shade Brigade work with students weekly after school to design LEED structures for the Fairchild Challenge, a regional competition that SPHS has won for the last three years, the only school to be so successful. A specialist taught students how the City uses current Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in their jobs, and others helped judge the Senior Symposium projects. Magnet students teamed with the City to replace a neighborhood tree buffer of native vegetation lost from hurricanes and actively participate in City events for environmental issues including Green Day and Arbor Day.

In Jack Carter Harmony Park, students added 1,200 square feet of tree canopy while learning about the hardwood hammock habitat and the importance of native planting. The school garden uses a solar-powered irrigation system with water collected from rain barrels so students can

emulate water collection for reuse at their own homes. Currently, there are 60 students studying plant science on a college level. “Working with the professionals brings real-world significance to students,” said teacher Pam Krauss. “The students say that this interaction brings learning to a whole new level.”



Representing the South Plantation High partnership are (front row from the left) Patrice Sonnelitte, Pam Krauss, Teacher, David Basile, Principal and (back row from the left) Pete Tingom, City of Plantation, Alyce Cullpepper, Magnet Coordinator, Diana Berchielli

Sawgrass Springs Middle with Youth Environmental Alliance

Florida agriculture and climate change are the focus of the partnership between Sawgrass Springs Middle School (SSMS) and Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA). The activities include “Growing a Green Business” where students meet twice weekly afterschool turning the school’s Garden Center into a green business. One day a week, students work in the garden and on the other, they learn marketing and money management skills. Students, along with the partner and teacher, attend community events on the weekends to sell homegrown plants and herbs. Through grants and plant sales, YEA has helped SSMS raise \$5,000. Profits were used to maintain the school’s gardens.

“Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs” is a free seven-week afterschool fishing club for students. Students learn catch-and-release techniques and how to be a responsible angler. YEA supplied all of the equipment, bait and staff. The program culminated with all participants receiving a free fishing pole and tackle box.

“Xtreme Cuisine” is an in-class hands-on program implemented through the consumer science classes that

teach children about healthy nutrition. Students enjoy making and eating wheat pizza and yogurt parfaits. Cindy Davidson of YEA trains teachers to use Florida agriculture in the classroom curriculum, and presents lessons to students. She wrote lesson plans and served as facilitator for “Green Days,” the school’s environmental field days. Ms. Davidson also assisted SSMS in securing grants.



Representing the Sawgrass Springs Middle School partnership are (from the left) Joann Cantlupe; Innovative Programs Coordinator, Adeline Andreano, Principal, Cindy Davidson and Andrew Roberts representatives of Youth Environmental Alliance



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Partnership story?

Please send articles to:
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The Partners In Education
Newsletter will be published in
September
December
March
June

Partners In Education Board Develops 2011 Agenda

On Wednesday, June 8, 2011, the Partners In Education Board of Directors held its Annual Planning Meeting to elect officers and develop strategies, tactics and action steps to accomplish the 5-year plan.

The Board is pleased to announce the Leadership Team for 2011-2012:

President: Sam Chesser, BrightStar Credit Union; **1st Vice President: Janna Lhota**, Holland & Knight; **2nd Vice President: Michelle Johnson**, Coventry Healthcare Plans; **Treasurer: Bill Shillington**, CPA; and **Immediate Past President: Dr. Jamie Manburg**, Nova Southeastern University.

To begin the planning portion of the meeting, Nina Randall, task assigned as the Executive Director of PIE, presented the organizations accomplishments in the 2010-2011 school year. Chief among these was a 9% increase in school-based partnerships – 4% over expectation.

Sue Gallagher, Director of Research, Analysis & Planning, Children's Services Council of Broward County, then lead the group through *Results Based*

Accountability. Directors first answered the question, "What quality of life conditions do we want for ALL Broward County Public School children and families." Consensus immediately focused on the response, i.e. that all BCPS children succeed in school. The rest of the day, directors discussed how PIE could influence this worthy goal.

On July 8, directors will meet again to hone ideas into strategies, tactics and action steps for the 2011-2012 school year.



PIE Directors at the Annual Planning Meeting held at Holland & Knight offices on Las Olas

Golf Ball Drop

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the Golf Ball Drop. While this was not our most successful fundraiser, only netting \$602 profit; it sure was a blast.

To see a complete video of the event, from lift off to retrieval of the winning balls, go to www.browardpartners.com/fundraisers.htm.

Winners of the Golf Ball Drop were:

- David Lhota – ticket number 205
- Michelle Johnson – ticket number 437
- Turner Construction – ticket number 270
- Jeff Markus – ticket number 241