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September/October 2011

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Four Years
with Four Stars

We are proud to announce that the Foundation received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the fourth consecutive year. About 9 percent of

Note from the Board Chairman

We have some exciting events and much progress to report from the Foundation. Our Board of Directors has adopted new vision and mission statements, as well as guiding principles that clarify and reconfirm our commitment to the students and teachers of Hillsborough County Public Schools. You can find them on our [website](#).

A major milestone was reached by our Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools program. We have now distributed \$10 million of school supplies to Title 1 schools and educational sites. Thank you to the donors who have provided those supplies to ensure that all of our students and teachers have the resources they need to succeed. Read more about the event that celebrated this achievement below, and please come by to visit the Teaching Tools store in our headquarters at Centro Español.



Mike Poland

Charity Navigator, one of the "watchdog" organizations for nonprofits, has notified us that we have once again received their four-star rating. This is our fourth consecutive year to achieve this goal, an honor shared with only 9 percent of nonprofits nationally. This speaks highly of both the Foundation staff and our volunteer board members who ensure that we are operating efficiently and with transparency.

A search committee has been formed to hire a new leader for the Foundation. Our hope is to be able to announce a new president by the end of the year. The committee has agreed on the profile for the position. [Click here](#) to gain some insights into the direction the Board, with the help of this leader, plans to take the Foundation in the future.

Take Stock in Children's new president, Emilio Alonso-Mendoza, visited Middleton High School recently and told the students in our scholarship program that we are all committed to their success. The Take Stock program provides at-risk sixth through ninth graders the opportunity for a college education through a Florida Prepaid Scholarship. The Foundation staff, along with volunteer mentors, works with the scholarship students throughout their middle and high school years to

nonprofits earn that distinction.

Upcoming Events



**Thanks for Giving
Donor Appreciation Night
November 29, 2011
5:30 pm - 7 pm
TECO Community Hall
Hillsborough Education
Foundation**

We would like to show our appreciation for your support in making it possible for us to serve our students, teachers and schools. Please join us.

Good4U Good4Us



Check out these great discounts and support the Hillsborough Education Foundation!

Save BIG on LEGOLAND® Florida Tickets

The Hillsborough Education Foundation has partnered with LEGOLAND® Florida theme park to offer BIG savings on 1-day, 2-day and annual passes! Opening October 15, 2011, LEGOLAND® Florida is a 150-acre interactive theme park dedicated to families

encourage them and provide the information they need to ensure they continue their education beyond high school. We need additional volunteer mentors. Couldn't you commit one hour per week to talk with one of these students about their future? Contact [Linda Beckman](#) at 813-574-0264 if you can help.



Donor Spotlight: Amscot Financial

Amscot Financial believes in supporting communities in which they have stores. Supporting education is very important to Amscot. Ian MacKechnie, founder and CEO of Amscot, said, "Amscot's philosophy with regards to community programs has always been 'Kids First.' We believe that our future is being determined by the education that children in our communities are getting today. And we know that resources are key to that equation."

That's why Amscot raises funds annually through its Just-A-Dollar campaign for all education foundations in the counties with Amscot locations. During August, Amscot employees ask their customers to donate \$1 to their local education foundation. The campaign's goal is to increase the Foundation's capacity to serve more Hillsborough students, teachers and schools. Funds from the campaign, which included a company match, went to the School Enrichment program, which awards grants to teachers and schools for innovative education efforts.

School Enrichment, Excellence in Education and Building Excellence are among some of the ways Amscot has supported the Foundation's initiatives to serve students, teachers and schools in Hillsborough County. Amscot has been a presenting sponsor of the Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year Award, recognizing educators that influence diversity in the classroom, school and community. Amscot also donated to the Building Excellence campaign, funding the visitor reception area.

We appreciate Amscot's continued support of our students, teachers and schools.

New Scholarship for Hillsborough Students

with children between the ages of 2 and 12. With more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, LEGOLAND® Florida is geared towards family fun. As a Hillsborough Education Foundation supporter, LEGOLAND® Florida would like to extend this exclusive offer to you!

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Big Savings at BJ's Wholesale Club in November

The Hillsborough Education Foundation has partnered with BJ's Wholesale Club during November to offer savings to all Hillsborough Education Foundation supporters and Hillsborough County Public School personnel.

In November, you can join BJ's Wholesale Club or renew your membership for \$10 off. In addition, supporters will receive and extra three months of **FREE** membership and a second household membership card **FREE**. For every membership sold or renewed, BJ's will make a donation to the Hillsborough Education Foundation. This special offer is good for current and new members by special application only.

**Offer Expires:
November 30, 2011**

Click here for the special application.

*Make checks payable to:
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.
Mail Application to: BJs
6290 Commerce Palms*



The Foundation received a \$3,000 donation for the Javier Arenas Award of Excellence Scholarship Fund. Pictured are from left, Romey Battle (Goal Line Sports), Tyrone Clark, Kristen Johnson, Dr. Rebekah Heppner, Christine Shand, Laura Gucza, Stephanie Maxwell, Michael Herrera and Pamela Robinson (Goal Line Sports).

Tools 4 Schools Breakfast

Almost 500 of Tampa's business leaders and philanthropists came together for the Tools 4 Schools Breakfast, presented by Brighthouse Networks, to support one of our beloved programs, Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools. The breakfast raised more than \$127,000 for Teaching Tools - a new record for a dynamic program.

Thanks to Tampa Bay Lightning CEO Tod Leiweke, our featured speaker, and Temple Terrace Elementary teacher Jessica Hobson Rodriguez, who shared her experiences as a graduate of Hillsborough County Public Schools and as a teacher at Temple Terrace Elementary. Teaching Tools allows more than 50,000 students to focus on learning and not worry about having the critical tools for school. The store makes school supplies available to teachers at 110 Title 1 schools and educational sites, which are passed along to their students. We appreciate the continued support of our donors for this program.

Teaching Tools accepts donations of school supplies year-round. [Click here](#) to learn more.

\$10 Million Milestone for Teaching Tools

Blvd. Tampa, FL 33578 -
Attn: S. Vosler/Corp 40
E-mail application:
svosler@bjs.com

Contact Shannon Vosler at
813-326-4083 for any
questions regarding this
offer.



**2011
Career & College Fest**

Hillsborough County middle and high school students and their parents had the opportunity to learn about diverse career opportunities and college options during the annual Career & College Fest at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

Students, parents and teachers alike were enthused to learn about the numerous opportunities that showcased what our local post-secondary schools and businesses had to offer. Career & College Fest helped guide students in the right direction towards leading productive lives.

The 2011 Career & College Fest would not have been possible without the support of the following



What do you get when you add 959,000 pencils, 271,000 books, 652,000 crayons, 15,000 composition books, 24,000 packages of filler paper, 61,000 notebooks, 15,000 packages of copy paper, 34,000 glue sticks/bottles and 36,000 backpacks together? The answer: \$10 million of free school supplies distributed to at-risk students in Hillsborough County Public Schools. Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools marked its \$10 million milestone in October and celebrated by awarding one of our teacher shoppers, Melissa Boucher of Mort Elementary with a prize package. Teaching Tools has provided free school supplies to teachers in Title 1 schools and educational sites for nine years. Winning teacher Melissa Boucher, right, received congratulations from Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent MaryEllen Elia, left.

Strikes and Spares Give Teaching Tools a Boost

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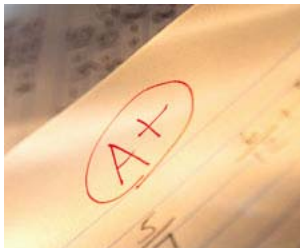
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Members of the architectural, engineering, contracting and supplier community gathered for some friendly competition during the third annual "Bowling for Education Tournament" at Pinarama Bowling Center. Thanks to the Society for Marketing Professional Services and Allstate Construction for putting on the event, which raised more than \$12,000 in cash donations for the Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools program. In the past three years, the bowling event has raised more than \$40,000 for Teaching Tools. Those dollars help us provide at-risk students with the school supplies they need to succeed in the classroom.

Success Story



*Linda
Take Stock in Children
Mentor*

NOTE: The following is a speech made during a visit from the president of Take Stock in Children, Emilio Alonso-Mendoza.



Take Stock in Children President Emilio Alonso-Mendoza speaks about mentoring at Middleton High School.

Take Stock President Visits Middleton High School

We had the privilege of a visit from the new Take Stock in Children president, Emilio Alonso-Mendoza. Take Stock's new president met with

Linda Beckman speaks with her mentee, Michelle.

My name is Linda Beckman and this is my fourth year as a mentor in the Take Stock in children program. My mentee, Michelle, attends Middleton High School and we have been together since the beginning of her sophomore year and she will graduate this year.

My first mentee was a sweet, chatty young woman who attended Hillsborough High school in the IB program. I tried all year to persuade her that although the IB curriculum was rigorous, she was equal to the task and tried to elaborate on the opportunities that a combination of an IB diploma and a pre-paid college education through the Take Stock could provide. However, at the end of the first year, she decided to transfer into a traditional program at another high school. Unfortunately, her new school was too far from my office to allow me to continue with the weekly meetings which are the cornerstone of the Take Stock in Children program.

[Click here](#) to read more about Linda and Michelle's story.

[Learn More](#)



students and their mentors at Middleton High School in September as part of a tour of Florida organizations that partner with Take Stock. The Foundation has partnered with TSIC for almost 12 years to provide mentors for public school students that are recipients of Florida Prepaid Scholarships.

Our mentoring program helps make sure students have a mentor to help them stay on track academically as they progress through school. Students have to keep their grades up and stay out of trouble while they're in school. When they graduate, they get a college scholarship. Mentors encourage students to be successful in school by providing guidance and support.

It only requires about an hour a week to mentor a student. We need volunteers to serve as mentors for our Take Stock students. Read about one mentor's experience in the Success Story. [Click here](#) to learn more about how you can volunteer as a mentor.

Thank you to our August supporters!

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[Hillsborough Education Foundation in the News](#)

['Take Stock' guides Hillsborough teens toward college](#)

[Middleton High Visited by CEO of Take Stock in Children](#)

[Amscot Financial Partners With Customers to Raise More Than \\$150,000 for Local Education Foundations](#)

[Lennard High gets acoustically adjusted](#)

[Teachers' school supply program reaches milestone](#)

[Volunteer Opportunity: The Hillsborough Education Foundation](#)

[School's Sound System Improved, Thanks to SCC](#)

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"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King

Sincerely,



Mike Poland
Board Chairman
Hillsborough Education Foundation





The Constant Contact Cares4Kids program supports non-profit organizations that work directly with children. Learn more about the [Cares4Kids](#) program, or [signup for a free 60-day trial](#).

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