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July 2011

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In This Issue
Upcoming Events
Did You Know?
Good4U Good4Us
Success Story

Note from the Board Chairman

We recently said goodbye to Bill Hoffman, who has stepped down as President of the Foundation. We are most grateful to Bill for the dedication and the leadership that he provided in positioning the Foundation for future growth and success.

Get Involved!



During his 8 years as President, Bill's accomplishments include the completion of the multi-million dollar fundraising campaign and major renovation of Nature's Classroom, as well as a merger with A Gift for Teaching Tampa, now known as Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools. Bill also led the relocation and renovation of the Foundation's headquarters to the historic El Centro Español de West Tampa building on Howard Avenue, creating a more permanent and centralized location to serve teachers and students. We wish Bill well in his future endeavors.

Our board is refining our strategic focus to address the critical needs of Hillsborough's K-12 students and teachers. We plan to bring in a new leader that will work with our partners and support public education in areas that impact our students and community. Our staff will continue running daily operations, serving donor partners and administering programs.



Rebekah Heppner
Interim President

Earlier this month, Rebekah Heppner, Ph.D., was appointed interim President of the Foundation. Dr. Heppner will manage the Foundation's activities while a search for a permanent director is conducted. She brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge to the Foundation.

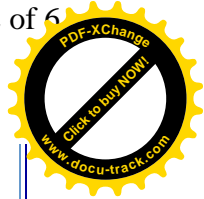
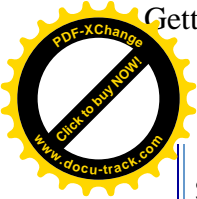


Upcoming Events



2011-12 School
Year

Dr. Heppner currently operates her own consultancy providing consulting, training and group facilitation to not-for-profit organizations. Previously, she has served as interim executive director for two local not-for-profit agencies and as a vice president at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. We look forward to working with her during this transition period.



First Day of School

School starts on Tuesday, August 23.

Help Us 'Stuff the Bus' with School Supplies

Collect supplies for more than 50,000 needy students, and help kids succeed from the first day of school to the last!

[Listen](#) for details about our supply drive on the radio and look for the bus, **Thursday, August 18 from 11 am to 1 pm at the following locations:**

102.5 FM - McDonald's in Town and Country (7909 W. Hillsborough Ave.)

97.1 FM - McDonald's at 104 W Berris Ave.

94.9 FM - McDonald's at Sun City Center (State Road 674 and I-75)

[Watch us](#) on TV when FOX13's [CareForce teams up with Office Depot](#) to collect supplies from [August 7-28](#).

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Tools 4 Schools Breakfast

September 7, 2011
7 am - 8:30 am

Renaissance Hotel
at International Plaza

The Teaching Tools program plays a vital role in the lives of needy children by providing essential tools for learning and ensuring a brighter future for them and the future



Spotlight on Mentoring

Scholarship winner and Lennard High graduate Monte is thankful for the dedication of his mentor, Norm Rocco. "Every Thursday he was there to see me 8th period, every Thursday he was there, no matter what," said Monte. "I just thank him for that."

Jasmine, a Spoto High School graduate, credits her mentor, Joanne Salem, with opening her eyes to different things and helping her "figure out what I want to do in life."

These two students are on their way to achieving great things thanks to their dedicated mentors, trusted friends who coach young scholarship recipients to graduate high school and achieve postsecondary success.

Mentors are needed to help students achieve their full academic, professional and personal potential. Many students come from minority households, and most are the first in their family to attend college. Our students need a mentor to help guide them away from the risk factors of drugs, alcohol, violence and more.

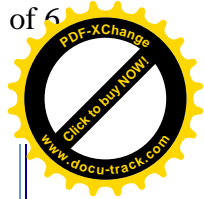
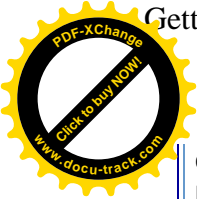
Low-income, at-risk middle school and high school students in Hillsborough County awarded scholarships matched by the Florida Prepaid Foundation are paired with mentors (community volunteers) who meet once a week for one hour at school during school hours. It takes dedication and commitment to mentor students, but the rewards are great.

"Mentoring can be very, very challenging, but very rewarding, it has been for me," said Rocco, who has changed the lives of many youth who needed a helping hand in school.

Take these steps to become a mentor:

- Fill out an application.
- Attend a training session.
- Go through a screening process.

Interested in becoming a mentor? Please e-mail [Jonathan Maresco](#) or call (813) 574-0264. [Click here](#) to learn more about our mentoring program.



contributions they will make in our community. The Foundation's largest fund-raising breakfast raises support for the Teaching Tools Supply Store, and helps us meet the needs of our teachers and students.

Did You Know?



The Hillsborough Education Foundation is teaming up with Metropolitan Ministries to collect school supplies for needy students from now through September.

Help at-risk students have the right supplies to start the year by participating in the 2011 Stuff the Bus/Backpacks of Hope school supply drive. Join forces with other businesses and community organizations to help kids succeed from the first to the last day of school!

Want to donate supplies? [Click here](#) for a list of locations. Or schedule your own supply drive by contacting [Laura Grucza](#) at (813) 574-0279.

Good4U Good4Us



Mentors enjoyed exchanging ideas and stories during the Foundation's Mentor Appreciation event at TECO Community Hall.

Hillsborough is Hiring Teachers!

Hillsborough County is a leader in recruiting teachers! While school districts across Florida continue to lay off teachers due to budget shortfalls and declining enrollments, Hillsborough County Public Schools has avoided layoffs and continues to hire.

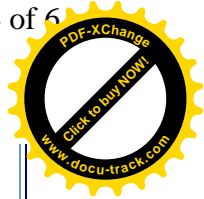
This summer hundreds of educators from around the state and nation attended the district's annual Teacher Interview Days, hoping to secure a place in a Hillsborough County classroom for the fall.

The district expects to hire about 1,000 new teachers for the coming school year.

Though teachers were advised that it was a time for interviews and not necessarily a time for hiring, more than 100 were hired on the spot. That's because principals were so impressed with the pool of applicants, they were eager to bring the teachers on board.

"The word from the principals is that this may have been the most impressive group of candidates we've ever seen," said school district spokesman Steve Hegarty. "I can't help but think that the job market has a lot to do with that. That puts Hillsborough County in a great position because we want the best teachers."

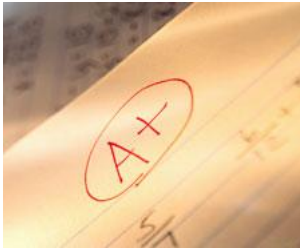




Check out these great discounts and support the **Hillsborough Education Foundation!**

FC Tampa Bay Tickets
If you like professional soccer, get your next game ticket to see FC Tampa Bay play. \$1 donation per ticket goes to support the Education Foundation's mission. [Click here](#) for a schedule and to order tickets.

Success Story



Julian Project SUCCESS graduate

Julian, a graduate from South County Career Center, was able to stay on track with school and earn a \$2,000 scholarship from Project SUCCESS, giving him a strong start to a career as an Emergency Medical Technician.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of Julian's story.

[Learn More](#)



Erin Hinton, Vice President, Community Relations Manager, Greater Tampa Bay for Bank of America presented \$25,000 to the Foundation in support of workforce development through Career and Technical Education programs.

Thank you to our June supporters!

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[Positively Tampa Bay](#)

[Back to School Supply Drive for Kids in Need](#)

[Hot Shot: Trung Tran](#)

[Change in Leadership at Hillsborough Education Foundation](#)

[Hillsborough Education Foundation's President Resigns](#)

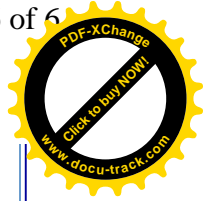
[Rebekah Heppner to serve as interim leader of Hillsborough Education Foundation](#)



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"We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance." - Harrison Ford



Sincerely,
Mike Poland
Board Chairman
Hillsborough Education Foundation



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