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August 2011

Vol. 10, Issue 8

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**Get Involved!**



**Upcoming Events**



**Tools 4 Schools  
 Breakfast**  
 September 7, 2011

## Note from the Board Chairman

It's hard to believe that summer is already over and "Back to School" time once more! Almost 1,000 new teachers helped Hillsborough County Public School students get back into the swing of things after the summer break. At the Foundation, we too have the pleasure of welcoming new staff members as well as a new team of AmeriCorps volunteers who are already working with many of our at-risk students as their reading tutors and mentors.



Mike Poland

Throughout the summer, our board and staff have been working to strategically plan for our programs in the 2011-2012 school year. To kick us off, we teamed up with Metropolitan Ministries to collect backpacks and school supplies for underprivileged kids. Many thanks to the large number of businesses and organizations holding school supply drives to help our kids have the tools they need for the school year. And effective immediately, we are adding another 10 schools the Teaching Tools Supply Store roster, bringing the total of Title 1 schools served to 110.

This month's newsletter includes additional information about how our programs are working to help our children, their teachers and schools. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and making this the best school year possible!



**Donor Spotlight**  
**The Mosaic Company**

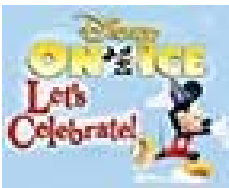
**7 am - 8:30 am  
Renaissance Hotel  
at International Plaza**

The Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools 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 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.

**Good4U Good4Us**



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



**SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS** for Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic Join Mickey and Minnie Mouse as they take the audience on a whirlwind tour of favorite Disney moments. Discounted tickets (**\$14.75 for lower level**) are available for **either the 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. show**

Mosaic has been a great partner to the Foundation from the very beginning. Members of the Mosaic leadership team are instrumental in their leadership roles with the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board of Directors, providing strong direction and support to their colleagues.

Education is one of Mosaic's core areas of community support, along with agriculture and the environment. To Mosaic, education is the key to the future. Our community's future is based on our next generation, and our future workforce depends on a good educational system.

Over the years Mosaic has donated to Foundation programs such as School Enrichment, Excellence in Education, Scholarships, Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools and other efforts that benefit public school students, teachers and schools. Mosaic has been recognized as a Business Partner of the Year as a \$1 million donor.

Mosaic also runs the Mosaic Coastal Education Center, its award winning environmental education program. More than 100 employees volunteer their time with this program each year, teaching science to fourth-graders in southern Hillsborough County. Mosaic employees are dedicated volunteers with the annual Great American Teach In and also school supply drives they host to benefit the underprivileged students in our public schools.

Overall, Mosaic embraces the spirit of giving both as a business and through its employees. We appreciate our long-term partnership with Mosaic and hope to continue that relationship for years to come.

### **School Enrichment Grants Enhance Learning**

Developing new and innovative ways to enhance learning can be a challenge when there is no money in the budget. Brewster Technical Center had to close its media center after the school's media specialist position was eliminated. A technology matching grant from the Foundation made it possible for Brewster students to get computer access in its re-opened media center. (Read more in our [Success Story](#)).

Every year the Hillsborough Education Foundation makes funds available through the School Enrichment Initiative to educators for programs that tax dollars may not be able to support.

Three types of school enrichment grants give teachers extra support to enhance their students' learning:

- Classroom Grants for classroom projects
- School Excellence Initiative Grants for school projects
- Technology Matching Grants for technological advancements in schools

Last year, the Foundation awarded 129 school enrichment grants to our teachers and schools, including almost \$76,000 in classroom grants and more than \$27,000 in school excellence grants. The majority of grant funds were technology-related. Teachers received

on [September 10](#) at the St. Pete Times Forum. [Order by noon on September 2. Click here](#) for more information.

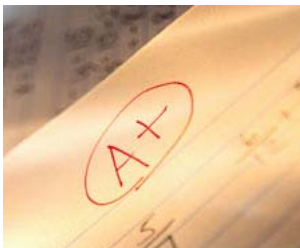
#### **Amscot Financial's 'Just a Dollar' Campaign**

If you do business with Amscot Financial, consider donating \$1 to the Foundation. Amscot will track each contribution by county and ensure that it is donated in September to the education foundation serving the county in which the branch is located. Amscot will match the overall contributions up to the first \$10,000.

#### **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**



#### ***Brewster Technical Center Technology Matching Grant***

Brewster Technical Center's Media Center will now be equipped with a new laboratory for students thanks to a

more than \$236,000 in technology matching grants.

Thanks to our partnerships with individuals, corporations, agencies, and organizations, we are able to provide funds for teachers and schools. We hope to continue awarding grants to deserving schools to benefit their students.



The 2011-2012 AmeriCorps team will be tutoring and mentoring at-risk students in Hillsborough County during the school year.

#### **AmeriCorps Team Gears Up for New School Year**

We are proud to welcome our new AmeriCorps team for the new school year. AmeriCorps members at the Foundation will work with our Hillsborough Reads and Graduation Pathway programs.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that gives individuals a chance to serve their community. Our AmeriCorps members are so valuable to the Foundation. They make it possible for struggling students to get help with their reading comprehension and for at-risk elementary and middle school students to get the support they need to stay in school.

This year eight AmeriCorps members will tutor struggling readers at 14 Title 1 elementary schools in our Hillsborough Reads program. Last year, AmeriCorps members and other volunteers spent 71,392 hours with struggling primary readers. The other eight will be mentors ("Graduation Coaches") for at-risk students in elementary and middle schools that feed into Leto High School. At each school, AmeriCorps members (Graduation Coaches) mentor and tutor at least 25 students with the goal of increasing their school attendance rates. Last year they provided more than 2,000 one-to-one mentoring sessions.

The results have been outstanding. In the past year since the launch of our drop-out prevention program, Graduation Pathway, 50 percent of students became more committed to their school after one semester of mentoring from our Graduation Coaches. Last year, 74

Technology Matching grant from the Hillsborough Education Foundation. Technology matching grants help schools by allowing teachers to get creative with teaching techniques. Technology matching grants are jointly administered by the Foundation and the Hillsborough County Public Schools.

[Click here](#)

to read more about Brewster Tech's media center and computer laboratory.

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percent of students in Hillsborough Reads improved their reading skills by two or more levels.

We appreciate the effort our AmeriCorps members put in to helping our students, teachers and schools. Keep up the good work!

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*"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."* - Chinese Proverb

Sincerely,

*Michael C. Poland*

Mike Poland  
 Board Chairman  
 Hillsborough Education Foundation



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Hillsborough Education Foundation | 2306 N. Howard Ave. | Tampa | FL | 33607