

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 21

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Road improvement project to start this summer

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a work order at today's BCC meeting giving the green light to Better Roads, Inc. to construct intersection improvements at Immokalee Road and Everglades Boulevard. The approximately \$416,000 project will add five-foot wide paved shoulders on both Immokalee Road

and Everglades Boulevard near the intersection, construct an eastbound right turn and westbound left turn lane on Immokalee Road at Everglades Boulevard, as well as construct a northbound right turn lane on Everglades Boulevard. In addition, stormwater drainage improvements will be added including the replacement of 24 inch metal

pipe on Everglades Boulevard with 24 inch reinforced concrete pipe and extending the existing double 48 inch reinforced concrete pipe on Immokalee Road.

Growth Management Division Administrator Norman Feder said that the improvements will enhance safety.

"Immokalee Road is two lanes in the vi-

city of Everglades Boulevard without any turn lanes," said Feder. "Currently when someone wants to turn onto Everglades Boulevard, all traffic must slow down or stop. Adding turn lanes will allow through traffic to keep moving and turning vehicles will then have a safer area to make turns."

See ROAD — Page 2

Kids Against Hunger brings community together

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Over one hundred people of all ages and backgrounds came together at the Immokalee Parks and Recreation gym this past Saturday to do their part in fighting against world hunger. The gym was a literal beehive of activity as boys and girls joined with their parents

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/
Rick Heers

Making a difference and having a great time was the goal of these teen volunteers.



Emphasis on safety: Bikes and pedestrians

Collier County Sheriff's Cpl. Jeffrey Hoel and Traffic Technician Braulio Castineira (kneeling) help a local bicyclist install a bike light kit on his two-wheeled transportation. The deputies were part of a program that puts an emphasis on bike and pedestrian safety. Several deputies took part in the event that took place on Wednesday, May 19, in downtown Immokalee

Courtesy photo/CCSO

For more, see page 2

Florida KidCare offers access to healthcare

Get children's health insurance for less than a trip to the movies

There's some good news for Florida parents looking for an affordable opportunity to keep their kids healthy.

Florida KidCare is offering health insurance benefits to children under the age of 19 for less than a trip to the movies.

Children have access to preventive care such as regular doctor's visits, immunizations, dental and vision checkups. In addition, families are protected against catastrophic financial loss in the event

See KidCare — Page 2

Students released early on three days

School District of Collier County middle and high school students will be released three hours early on Tuesday, June 8, and on Wednesday, June 9 — two end-of-semester exam days. The early dismissal days provide extended time for exam periods while providing sufficient time for teachers to carefully score the assessments. While the June 8 and June 9, early dismissal days apply to middle and high school students only, Thursday, June 10, is an early dismissal

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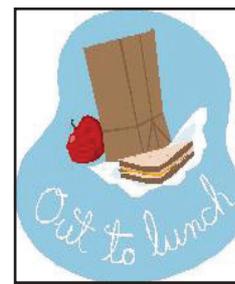
Helping Haiti's Children — Shoes for Kids

... Page 8



Free breakfast and lunch sites for kids this summer

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See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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CCSO targets safety for bikeriders and pedestrians

The Collier County Sheriff's Office kicked off its bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign in Immokalee last Wednesday, May 19. Collier County Sheriff's officers are doing their part in helping make bicycle riders safer in Immokalee. Many members of the sheriff's office visited the Pantry Shelf, 106 S. 3rd St. in downtown Immokalee and handed out and helped install bicycle light kits, pass out helmets and reflective safety vests. If a bicyclist was in need of a light kit, a deputy also helped affix the light kit onto the bike.

Deputies also distributed pamphlets and fliers and other materials that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Around 220 local bike riders came out; 199 bike lights were installed and 144 adult sized helmets and reflective vests were handed out.

The purpose of the "Be Safe, Be Seen" campaign is to equip bicyclists and pedestrians in Immokalee with education and safety equipment that greatly decreases their

chance of being injured or killed in a traffic crash.

Funding for the program was provided by a grant through the Florida Department of Transportation.

More "Be Safe, Be Seen" events are planned for throughout the year in Immokalee and East Naples, where bicycle and pedestrian safety has been a significant problem.

Eighty percent of the traffic fatalities involving bicyclists and pedestrians reported to the Collier County Sheriff's Office in 2009 occurred in East Naples and Immokalee. There were five pedestrian/bicyclist traffic fatalities in the county last year, four of which were in East Naples and Immokalee, according to CCSO figures.

Of the 96 bicyclists and pedestrians who were injured in traffic crashes countywide in 2009, 42 were injured in Immokalee and East Naples, CCSO figures show.



Courtesy photo/CCSO

Deputy Chris Gonzalez helps a local bicycle vendor with safety reflectors on his bike cart. The bike/pedestrian safety event was held in downtown Immokalee on Wednesday, May 19. The local Immokalee community is one with many alternative means of transportation and the event encouraged safe bike equipment and safety for pedestrians.

KidCare

Continued From Page 1

of a serious medical issue.

The majority of families enrolled pay nothing at all; others may pay premiums that range from \$15 to \$159 per month. Children receive coverage under the program's four components - MediKids, Children's Medical Services Network, Healthy Kids and Children's Medicaid.

To date, approximately 1.6 million children are enrolled and the program is open to accept thousands more. In the last two months alone, 50,000 previously uninsured children began receiving preventive care such as regular doctor visits, immunizations, dental check-ups and prescriptions through Florida KidCare.

It's now even easier for families to access Florida KidCare benefits through a more streamlined enrollment process. An increase in funding will also expand the program to

cover more children, helping to make sure no child in Florida goes without health insurance.

To continue toward this goal, the Governor's Office and six state agencies are working with dozens of community and business partners to implement a statewide push to reach families with uninsured children. Each County's School District are actively involved in this effort, providing resources and manpower to get families enrolled in Florida KidCare.

This is the best time to apply for Florida KidCare, and districts are doing everything possible to spread that message to families with uninsured children. As a result of the news being spread, families are responding and taking advantage of this opportunity. In the last two months alone, more than 50,000 new children were enrolled in the program.

Families can apply for Florida KidCare online at www.floridakidcare.org or by calling 1-888-540-5437 to receive an application by mail. For local assistance, please contact your local school.

ROAD

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said Feder.

The project is expected to begin this summer and be completed this fall. During construction the speed limit will be reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph. Motorists are reminded that there will be intermittent lane closures in order to construct the intersection improvements. Construction crews will work during non-peak travel times to lessen the inconvenience to the traveling public.

News in Brief

Little League trophies ceremony planned

The 2009-2010 season for Immokalee Little League (ILL) is just about over. But first, Immokalee will be hosting Major Baseball tournaments the week of June 5-9. ILL will then congratulate players/coaches/and parents for a great season with a Trophy/Dinner Ceremony on Tuesday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at the Little League field. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Juan Garcia at 239-634-

Lane closure information will be included in the weekly Road Alert report which is posted on the county's Web site at: www.colliergov.net/RoadAlert.

Anyone interested in receiving automatic electronic notices (e-notifiers) of the Road Alert can sign up for them at: <http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=15>

The project is in Commissioner Jim Coletta's district, District 5.

"There will be a short term of construction and a long term gain from these intersection improvements," said Commissioner Coletta. "Safety enhancements like this are a top priority," added Commissioner Coletta.

2407 or Hector Ramos at 239-564-9645.

Water utility payment assistance available

Collier County Social Services has received a federal grant to help Collier County residents with their water utility bills. They are able to assist with up to \$300 per household and it is easy to qualify. To see if you qualify, please contact Collier County Social Services at 239-252-2696.

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- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.
E-Mail: ibnews@newszap.com

F.A.I.T.H. Riders commissioned

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The roar of motorcycles could be heard inside the sanctuary of First Baptist Church last Sunday morning as 19 cyclists arrived for the 11 A.M. worship service in which the riders were commissioned into a faith-based local motorcycle club, the F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS. F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS are a group of people made up of all areas of life, but who have a common interest-enjoyment of and enthusiasm for motorcycles-all makes and models. This is a ministry, not just a riding club or gang, has as their sole purpose to share the life-changing Good News that Jesus Christ calls Christians everywhere to promote the

Gospel to all people everywhere. Included in the group were 14 members of First Baptist Church, including the pastor, Dennis Norvell, and his wife, who rides a trike.

F.A.I.T.H. RIDERS is reaching people with their bikes who may not normally step foot into an organized church or Bible study. It's putting rubber, as well as shoe leather, onto the Gospel message. The groups first organized activity will be this week, riding as a group to Savannah, Georgia, where they will join with other groups who will ride to Ridgecrest, North Carolina, where several hundred bikers will converge on the retreat facilities of the Southern Baptist and have a special Memorial Day celebration.



Courtesy photo

F.A.I.T.H. Riders ministry gather to share their good news and to reach out to the local community with their message of the gospel.

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Partly sunny. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s.

Friday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Saturday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Sunday: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Monday - Memorial Day: Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Rick Heers selected as interim pastor

Calling upon his 45 years of continuous ministry in churches from Vermont to Florida, Pastor Rick Heers, executive director of I HOPE, had been selected to fill in as interim pastor to the congregation at First Baptist Church, Everglades City. Rick served as pastor/assistant pastor at Friendship Baptist in Immokalee for the past 9 years, and with his wife are currently members of First Baptist Church in Immokalee.

The church in Everglades City has been without a pastor since this May and has called upon Rick to minister to the congregation and assist them through the process of locating a full time pastor.

Pastor Heers and his wife are enjoying the opportunity to work with this fine group of people. The lovely church, located directly across the street from Everglades School,

has a congregation ranging in number from the 20 to the 70 or more, depending on the season. Many of its members travel north to their second homes during the summer months.



Obituaries

Monstella Patrick-Tims

IMMOKALEE — Monstella Patrick-Tims, age 79, of Immokalee, passed away April 26, 2010. She was born January 11, 1931 in North Carolina to the late Eva Bryant and Herman Patrick. Mrs. Tims attended the North Carolina Public School System where she was a graduate. She moved to Florida in the early 1950's where she met and married Henry C. Tims, who preceded her in death. She worked as a Collier County Public School bus driver until she retired.

Survivors include a devoted daughter, Sharon

K. Tims-Prather (Frederick) of Immokalee, Fla.; a step-daughter, Patsy Perry (Larry) of Lehigh Acres, Fla.; her sons, Nathaniel Tims, Maryland Williams, Marilyn Williams and Clarence Gibson of Immokalee, Cornelius Tims of Indiana, Henry C. Tims of New York, and Horace Means (Marsha) who preceded her in death; a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; special friends...Mary Sanders, Bernice Fuller, Eva Mitchell and Juanita Hosie; and many cousins, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 1,

2010, at First Missionary Baptist Church, Immokalee with Rev. Dr. Tony Person officiating.

Interment was at Lake Trafford Memorial Gardens, Immokalee.

Arrangements by Barrett & Waters Funeral Care, Fort Myers.

We, the family of the late Mrs. Monstella Patrick-Tims, would like to take this time to say, "Thanks for every act of love shown toward us during our time of sorrow." Special thanks to the First Missionary Baptist Church family of Immokalee, Fla. God bless.

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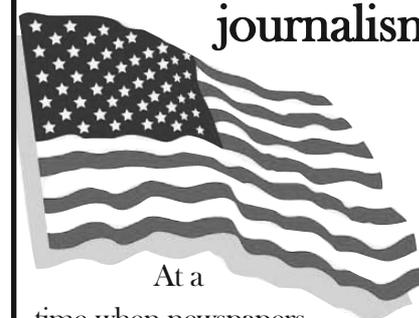


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Students First

Volunteers - a driving force in education

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools

They say "love makes the world go 'round," and there's a song like that, but those of us here at the School District of Collier County believe the love for our students expressed by our legion of volunteers makes the world go around - or at least the world of our students. When I say "legion" I mean 4,100 registered volunteers who donated an amazing 300,000 hours to our students and schools this school year. Now the estimated dollar value of volunteer time today is \$20, so if the 300,000 hours isn't amazing enough, what about the true dollar value of the work performed by our volunteers - \$6,000,000. That is truly amazing! The volunteers include our "Galaxy of

Stars" honorees - friends of our schools who have individually donated 1,500 or more hours to help our students, doing whatever is needed by our schools. The list of these venerable volunteers is posted on the district Web site. Just click on the link on the Community eBoard on the home page (www.collierschools.com). The honorees also take their rightful place on the permanent Galaxy of Stars plaque displayed in the School Board Meeting Room in Naples. That's where School Board Members recently recognized the Galaxy of Stars inductees and the district's volunteers of the year. The Senior Volunteer of the Year is George Montefalcone, known fondly as "Mr. Monte." He volunteers at Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee. He just loves helping students learn English, and helping them with their reading and math. Mr. Monte has been directly involved with,

and personally responsible for, bringing many other Naples volunteers - his fellow senior citizens - into the Immokalee community and our schools for about 10 years now. He has arranged for district transportation two days per week to support his precious cause. Each elementary school in Immokalee is helped each week by volunteers from Mr. Monte's group. At last count, he was personally responsible for recruiting and arranging transportation for more than 75 volunteers to our Immokalee schools. It's "Mr. Monte and friends" who are making a difference. Barbara Southwick is the Adult Volunteer of the Year and a State of Florida Volunteer of the Year. Pretty impressive, and so is Barb. She was the driving force behind the now famous "Boundless Playground" at Corkscrew Elementary School in Golden Gate Estates. Her \$300,000 dream is now a reality, with the playground being enjoyed

every day by all children, including those with disabilities. Barb Southwick was also instrumental in the creation of a School Improvement Ad Hoc Exceptional Student Education Committee which welcomes new families and students with disabilities to Corkscrew. Barb also formed a special Family Involvement Committee at the school, separate from the traditional PTA. Finally, we salute the district's Youth Volunteer of the Year. He's Fabian Ortiz, a student at Lorenzo Walker Technical High School in East Naples, who generously donates time to young students at Parkside Elementary School in East Naples where he's heavily involved with the Boys & Girls Club activities. He helps students with homework, gets active with them during physical education time, and serves as a great role model. Better yet, we know that Fabian puts a smile on the face of each student he helps.

GED connection returns soon

If you're planning to take the General Educational Development (GED) exam anytime soon, you'll want to be sure and catch the GED Connection TV show. GED Connection provides adult learners with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for and pass the newly revised GED exam. The GED Connection series combines 39 video programs, print materials, and internet learning activities to make studying for the test exciting, engaging, and effective. From the first episode through the last, GED Connection takes an in-depth look at the five subject areas covered on the GED exam - reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. The informative series also provides assistance with a multitude of topics within these subject areas. Some specific episode titles

include "Getting Ideas on Paper," "Poetry," "Economics," "Chemistry," and "Introduction to Algebra."

Tune in to The Education Channel, cable 99, each weekday at 6:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, June 1, to catch all the 30-minute episodes.

And if you'd like to prepare for the GED exam in a classroom setting, you're encouraged to take advantage of GED preparation classes offered at no cost at the following locations:

Golden Gate Adult Learning Center, 2701 48th Terrace SW, 239-377-3905

Immokalee Technical Center, 508 North 9th Street, in Immokalee, 239-377-9900

Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology, 3702 Estey Avenue, 239-377-0984.

Voluntary pre-K sign up continues

The School District of Collier County is inviting parents of youngsters who turned four years old by last Sept. 1, who have not attended a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program during the school year, and who are going to attend kindergarten in August, to sign up for the Summer VPK program. Registration will continue throughout the remainder of the school year during regular school hours at your child's kindergarten site (all elementary

schools).

The VPK program is free to all students who enroll, but parents are responsible for transportation to and from school. Classes will run from 8 a.m. to 4:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday (no school on Fridays), June 15 through Aug. 12. To learn more, contact VPK Coordinator Bonnie Clukey at 239-377-0510, or via e-mail at: clukeybo@collier.k12.fl.us.

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From Baseball to Basketball, Football to Hockey, Soccer to Swimming, Cheerleading to Taekwondo - if you offer or participate in a youth or recreational sport/activity contact us today to join the Eastern Collier County SportsNetwork



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Pinecrest Elementary

Millions of words!

Fourth graders at Pinecrest Elementary have reached their goal for reading during the recent program, "Reading Counts." The students collectively have tallied the number of words read and came up with the total of 16 MILLION! The class celebrated their goal with a pizza party on May 19. Way to go readers!

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HOME

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YOUR STANDINGS...
YOUR HIGHLIGHTS...

AWAY

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Collier County offers Kids' Cafeteria Summer Meals Program open sites

Open Sites:

Immokalee Community Park
321 N. First St., Immokalee 8:30 to 9:15;
12:15 to 1 p.m.
29 Immokalee, South Park
418 School Drive, Immokalee 9 - 9:45;
12:45 - 1:15
Free breakfast and lunch for kids from
June 17-Aug.13!
01 Bethune Education Center
614 South 5th Street, Immok. 8:00 - 8:45;
noon - 12:45
76 Highlands Elementary



1101 Lake Trafford Rd., Immok. 7:30 - 8:15; noon - 1 p.m.
07 Immok Middle Sch
401 9th St., Immok. 7:30 - 8:15 noon - 12:45
30 Lake Trafford Elementary
3500 Lake Trafford Rd., Immok, June 28-Aug.5; 7:30 - 8:15; noon - 1 p.m.
13 Sanders Pines
2449 Sanders Pines Circle, Immok. June

17-Aug 13; 8 - 9; noon - 1 p.m.
21 Village Oaks Elementary
1601 SR 29, Immokalee; 7:30 - 8:15; noon- 12:45
105 Timber Ridge
2726 Wilton Ct., Immokalee, June 17-Aug. 13; 11 Oak Haven
580 Oak Haven Cir. Immokalee June 17-Aug 13; 9 - 9:45; noon - 12:45
75 Pincrest Elementary
313 - 9th Street So. Immokalee June 17-Aug 13, 8:30 - 9:30; 12:30 - 1:30
120 Immokalee Sports Camp

505 Escambia Street Immokalee June 17-Aug 13; 8:30 - 9; 11:30 - noon
124 The Learning Spot
1225 West Main Street Immokalee; June 17-Aug 13, 9 - 9:30; noon - 12:30
127 Eden Park Elementary
3650 Westclox Street, Immokalee June 28-Aug 5; 7:30 - 8:15; noon - 12:30
Information provided by the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department. They will be providing free lunches to these participants of its Summer Food Service Program.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Tug of War takes teamwork and these teen volunteers know just how to do it with all team members working together to bring about change in feeding the hungry.

KIDS

Continued From Page 1

and a host of other adults from Immokalee, Ave Maria and Naples in a special labor of love that helped produce scores of boxes each loaded with over 200 servings of nutritious food. Each packet contains 6 meals of vitamin-enriched rice, beans, and vegetables with chicken flavoring. These boxes of sealed, air-tight prepared food, mixed with boiling water just prior to serving do not require refrigeration, and have a shelf life of three years. Over 38,000 meals were put together during the morning part of the day's activities. A similar project two months ago provided over 11,000 packages-66,000 meals-to help local unemployed farm workers and their families, and needy families in Haiti.

The program is led by Naples entrepreneur, Steve Popper, and was sponsored by One by One Leadership Foundation of Southwest Florida. Sponsored by One by One and organized by Sinclair Williams and partner John Lawson-Executive Director, and Reid Carpenter-chair, this wonderful event was supported by the Rotary Club of Immokalee and the Immokalee Parks and Rec and the Immokalee Fire Department. A BIG thanks to McDonald's for supplying the breakfast and the Salvation Army for helping 1 by 1 provide a tasty lunch for all participants. Rob Robbins brought his Miami-based radio station-The Call-FM-and broadcast live from the scene and provided lively music throughout the day. Following the morning food preparation activities and lunch, all the youngsters participated in a host of friendly games and competition called KidsGames. KidsGames have gained world-wide fame under the

inspiration of creator Eddie Waxer. Literally millions of youngsters around the world participate weekly in these exciting games and activities that promote friendship, good will and character building under principles taught in the Scriptures. This is the third year that Immokalee has participated in this valuable day of learning, giving and fun.

EARLY

Continued From Page 1

day that applies to all students, Kindergarten thru grade 12. Thursday, June 10, is the last day of school for all Collier County students, K-12, with all students being released three hours early. For more information online see the "Calendars" page of the district Web site at www.collierschools.com.

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Off-Site Inspections for both Properties: May 18 & June 1, 2-4 P.M. at 1102 Alachua St., Immokalee, FL

For Brochure & Terms of Sale Call:
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(Collier County)**

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Take Stock in Children class celebrates graduation

The Education Foundation of Collier County is proud to announce the 13 Take Stock in Children scholars graduating in the class of 2010.

Congratulations to the 2010 graduating class:

- Grecia Calvillo, Naples High
- Mayra Calvillo, Naples High
- Christopher Cuevas, Lorenzo Walker Technical High
- Johanna Desir, Naples High
- Nasha Etienne, Lely High
- Kiana Gough, Golden Gate High
- Ryan Groves, Lorenzo Walker Technical High
- Hillary Kessler, Barron Collier High
- Pedro Lora, Lorenzo Walker Technical High

- Yuriko Okubo, Naples High
- China Pierrelus, Lely High
- Tara Sahagian, Naples High
- Sheila Tanelus, Golden Gate High

Take Stock in Children is a scholarship and mentoring program that provides deserving students an opportunity to fulfill their potential and attend college. Students are matched with an adult mentor with whom they work weekly until they graduate high school. Upon fulfilling their promise to remain drug and crime-free and maintain good grades, these students receive a tuition scholarship for a Florida state college.

Take Stock in Children was begun in Collier County by The Education Foundation in 1999. This year's group is the organization's sixth graduating class. The Education Foundation manages Take Stock in Children for all middle and high schools in Collier County, except for Immokalee Middle and High, which is managed by The Immokalee Foundation. Currently there are 119 active students in The Education Foundation program, including the 13 soon-to-be graduates, and the 12 students newly inducted in February.

"We are so proud of our graduates," states Sandy Waite, Board Member and Chair of the Take Stock in Children Leadership Council for The Education Foundation.

"All of us—parents, mentors, donors, teachers, schools, board members, volunteers, donors and staff are cheering them on with pride and confidence."

The class of 2010 is unique and had an extra advantage. It is the first Take Stock in Children class to benefit from the partnership between The Education Foundation and Quest for Kids to provide stellar college preparation. This collaborative work for students is funded by The League Club.

On April 29, the graduating students' accomplishment was celebrated at a lovely dinner hosted and sponsored by Stock Development at the Club at Olde Cypress. As each student was called up to accept their honor, they had the opportunity to listen to what their mentor had to say about the experience. In addition, this year's graduating class was named for Claudine Léger-Wetzel, current Foundation Board Chair and Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Stock Development, and the staff of Olde Cypress. They have been such significant supporter of the Take Stock program, ensuring that each milestone in the program is celebrated well and providing students with invaluable experience to build confidence in professional settings.

In addition, this year, the program has launched a Volunteer of the Year award at graduation. For the inaugural honor, Mary Lynn Hill, who has been involved in the program since the beginning and has been critical to its success as a mentor and through her board leadership role, received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award.

"The opportunity that Take Stock provides is a promise," explains Susan McManus, President of The Education Foundation.

"It's a pact between the student who works hard, the family who supports the student, the mentor who cares and helps the student navigate, teachers and school teams that provide a supportive context, individuals in the community who provide financial support, and caring staff people who keep all of these pieces moving in sync."



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Gail Rothenberg.

The Club at Olde Cypress hosts The Education Foundation's sixth graduating class of Take Stock in Children students for a graduation dinner.

News in Brief

Head Start program now registering for fall

The Head Start Program is currently registering children for the upcoming 2010-11 school year. In order to be eligible for Head Start, a child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, of the current year, and a family must meet low income guidelines. When registering, you must provide the following: Proof of income (tax return, W-2) · Certified birth

certificate from vital statistics, · Current blue shot record with Varicella (chicken pox) · Current physical exam with hemoglobin results · Parent's picture identification · Medicaid/insurance card · Two proofs of residency (rental agreement, electricity/water bill). transportation must be provided by parents. Families most in need may apply for limited spots. To learn more, please contact the Head Start Office at 239-377-0590, or visit their Web site at: <http://www.collierschools.com/headstart/>.

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Children helping children - Haiti's youngest get shoes

Last week, children from the Immokalee Community School participating in a program to help the children of Haiti, were busily making bracelets to sell to raise money for the charity. This week, the bracelets, 100 of them made by hand, have been sold bringing in \$300. The funds were used to buy decorated Crocs shoes for children in Haiti. The Hope for Haiti organization founder, JoAnne Kuehner knows of the beading and selling that led to the donations and stated, "It's an honor because students of counselor JoAnn Blumenthal had to earn the right to become beaders. They must help someone every day, and record it in their journal."

Counselor Blumenthal stated that the children must have shoes to protect their feet as there is still much earthquake debris on the ground.

On Monday, the children participating were happy to deliver the Crocs to Hope for Haiti, a Naples-based charity that collects funds for established schools, clinics and nutritional services in Haiti. They unpacked 30 colorful pairs of the shoes and presented them to Hope for Haiti staff members.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/RCMA
Christina Velasquez, 11, (right) gives a pair of crocs Monday to Elizabeth Davison, executive director of Hope for Haiti for donation to Haitian children. In the background, Yahaira Caceres, 11, presents more crocs.



JoAnn Blumenthal, counselor at RCMA's Immokalee Community School, poses with the students who made and sold beaded bracelets so they could buy Crocs for Haitian children.

Immokalee Lions Club successful fundraiser helps local community

The members of The Immokalee Lions Club would like to thank all the people in our community who came to our flea market. It was a great and huge success.

Also we would like to thank all the people involved in helping this project become

a great success. Mr. Lee Mitchell, the director of The Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch for sponsoring our event, Mr. Juan Medina who was the DJ at our event, and last but not least our vendors who sold several of their items at this event. Be look-

ing out for our next fundraiser event sometime in June. Just look for the Immokalee Lions Club name. All proceeds for these

events go back to the community to help provide transportation, vision treatment and awareness.



Immokalee Lions Club Concessions volunteers for the recent yard sale fundraiser event included Victor Grimaldo, Yolina(Wendy) Luis Bonised, Jaqueline Navarro, Herminio Espinoza. (More photos next week)

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