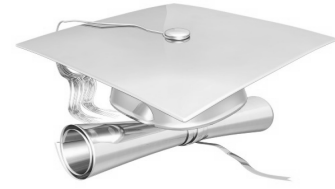


*College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc.*

## **COLLEGE FUND NEWSLETTER**

*October 2023*



Dear College Fund Supporters:

The men are going missing from American colleges, and we at the College Fund of Pinellas know it. With each passing year, it seems, fewer male students are applying to college. While College Fund applications are up, our male applications are noticeably down. In our newest class of recipients, for example, about 20 percent are male. It would be great if we could turn this trend around and simply say “Look at all the women finally getting a chance to take advantage of all the lifetime opportunities that higher education provides!” but the measurables point to some harsh trends unfolding among men even as women find opportunities.

Andrew Selepak, a social media professor at the University of Florida, wrote in an op-ed piece recently about several factors pushing young men away from college. Costs, sure, but they are roughly the same for both men and women. He also cited a very-respected survey that found more males simply did not want to go to college. Another sampling found that the public at large has much less confidence in the value of a college education than we did even as recently as 2015, despite evidence clearly showing that people with degrees earn significantly more during their lifetimes.

We at the College Fund have also been noticing anecdotal examples to suggest that the Covid pandemic, beginning in Spring 2020, really knocked our students – and their families, schools and supporting institutions – for a huge loop. Virtually every applicant we interviewed this summer offered unprompted examples of how Covid turned their high school and college experiences inside out. Isolating at home, empty Zoom classes, lost jobs, their stories run the gamut. Many of them are still trying to recover. In turn, colleges have been bending over backwards trying to find new ways to help their students get back on track.

Sometimes when groups ask us to come and give an overview of the Pinellas College Fund, it is fun to point out that we have helped send students to Yale, Stanford, Michigan and so many other well-known universities. But the recurring name that most warms my heart is St. Petersburg College. It is not our goal to steer students to any one place, but it seems clear that precious dollars can be stretched to the max when spent closer to home. That is especially true for students who are often the first in their families to attend college at all, and many of them must work while in school to help keep households together. Students have used SPC for decades as their first step toward their college degrees, which they ultimately obtain locally, at SPC, or far from here. We salute the powerful educational and economic engine that is SPC, currently celebrating nearly 100 years of serving the Tampa Bay area.

On behalf of the College Fund of Pinellas County,

*Dave Rogers*

President



## **Our Mission**

The College Fund of Pinellas County is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization run entirely by volunteers. Money is raised to help financially disadvantaged Pinellas County residents who have excellent scholastic potential, but insufficient funds to obtain a bachelor's degree and thereby improve themselves, their family's living standard, and their role in the community.

The College Fund has no paid employees. The financial contributions from its Directors and Advisors exceed its administrative costs; therefore, 100% of the donations from the public are used to support students. Since 1965 the College Fund has awarded **over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships to over 870 Pinellas County residents.**

For more information about the College Fund go to our website, [www.collegefundpinellas.org](http://www.collegefundpinellas.org).

## **Hardships Faced by our Students**

Sixty-seven students applied for scholarships, forty-two were considered, thirty-three interviewed and thirty were given scholarships. What we heard were stories of adversities through their lives, and yet they persevered and are now getting a college education. Many of the students live in single parent households on limited income because of divorce, abandonment, or death of a parent. Some assist with family members who are suffering from mental illness or disabilities. Others have endured severe abuse or have been victims of crimes. We noted an unusual number of the students are majoring in Psychology to learn how to cope with the concerns they are facing and their desire to help others who face the same issues. Some of the students live in transitional housing due to severe family conditions which included physical or substance abuse.

The past years have been unusual in the lives of these students due to the pandemic. They have had to adjust to a new environment, and we were amazed at their resiliency and strong desire to get an education. They told us how they have dealt with challenges, and many expressed that they turned to their faith or to their teachers for guidance. Your donations are making an incredible difference for these students as they

continue to work toward meeting their goal of a bachelor's degree.

## **It's Tax Free!**

**Reminder:** IRA owners who are 70½ or older can make a tax-free charitable contribution to the College Fund or any other qualified charity. The contribution must be paid directly from the IRA to the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. Charitable contributions must be made by December 31<sup>st</sup> to exclude that amount from taxable income. This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

## **Your Legacy Lives On**

The College Fund of Pinellas has renewed its commitment to our Endowment Fund since we understand that it's an important way for our supporters to share their blessings forever. Several of our board members have recently shown their support by making contributions to our Endowment Fund themselves. Won't you join us? To explore further, call fund president Dave Rogers, 727-459-0724.

## **Mentoring**

We mentor, as well as award scholarships. In the past, we have mentored a number of scholarship recipients, helping them choose classes, listening to their concerns, guiding them in a direction, recommending positions at time of graduation, and just being there for them.

## **A Response from a Student**

*My name is Ashley Hall and I have been a recipient of the Pinellas College Fund award for the last two years. I graduated this semester with my bachelor's degree, and I plan to enroll in graduate school this upcoming semester. .... I will be attending Florida State University's Urban and Regional Planning/ International Affairs Master's program.*

## **In Recognition**

Many thanks to the following people who have given a donation in memory of (IMO) or in

honor of (IHO) a relative, friend or colleague since our April 2023 brochure:

#### IMO

Jacalyn Evans IMO Ed Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. John Hardman IMO Lynn Hardman Craske  
Pamela Blanchard IMO Lin Garcia  
Marjorie Robinson IMO Frank Robinson  
Frances Moore IMO Robert Moore  
Restani Family Charities IMO Marvin Ivey  
Allen & Catherine Fleegeer IMO Berry Rohrbacher  
Marcia Morgan IMO Marvin Ivey  
Marianne Easton IMO Nancy Wilson  
Donald Haynes IMO Marvin Ivey  
Paul & Carol Schatzle IMO Marvin Ivey  
Allyson Stinson IMO Marvin Ivey  
Arlington Nunn IMO JC Rembert  
Helen Stephens IMO Hazetta Hopkins Jones  
Karen Moseley IMO Lynn Craske  
Sandra Campbell IMO Emily Woldt, RN  
Cecilia Tucker made a large donation IMO of the following 11 people

- TC Tucker
- Charles Maddux
- Malinda Chimenti
- Carolyn Kraick
- Greg Francis
- Anne Stewart
- Wayland Stewart
- Ruth Bates
- Dan Bates
- Mary Davidson
- Alene Wilson

#### IHO

Clayton & Susan Snare IHO L. Laws  
Frank LaValla IHO Britt Hart  
Martha & Bruce Momon-Rogers IHO Sherry & Bob Rankine  
John & Sandra Mutolo IHO Jerome Thompson  
Paul & Carol Schatzle IHO Bette Ra Ivey  
Allan & Sandra Titsworth IHO Bette Ra Ivey  
George & Barbara Friedel IHO their five grandsons  
Karen Moseley IHO Curt Engelmann  
Douglas & Loraine Harrell IHO Karen Moseley  
Charlene Einsel IHO Jan & Lee Regulski

#### A Significant Donation

An unexpected gift of unconditional good can come from the most unlikely places. We opened our mail earlier this year to learn that a retired Pinellas Park dentist had included us in his extensive list of bequests found in his trust agreement. His Tampa attorneys were checking with us to make sure that we would be willing to accept the \$13,600 he had designated for us. In College Fund Math, \$13,600 works out to more than 11 full-year scholarships for our students. Wow! You bet, we replied, and the check from the estate and trust of Dr. Keith E. Korneisel soon came our way. For us, manna from heaven, pure and simple.

We were not aware that Dr. Korneisel even knew of our work to help talented students get to college. Nor did any of our current board members or our supporters know of Dr. Korneisel. But we were so honored that he saw the enduring good of our work and decided to include us with nine other institutions like the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, and the Science Center of Pinellas County. Chances are we will never know how Dr. Korneisel knew of us or why he decided to include us in his plans, but we feel he made an excellent choice if his goal was to help provide for the betterment of his home community.

Although we couldn't have foreseen his generosity, we still had plenty of good and effective ways to put his gift to work. After much discussion, our board of directors decided to put Dr. Korneisel's bequest to work in our Endowment Fund. Since he clearly had made long-range plans for us--he placed us in his trust eight years ago—we thought it a beautiful fit to grow his gift so that future Pinellas college students would enjoy his vision. In this way, he lives on forever through his giving. What do you think? Notice that Dr. Korneisel shared his estate with ten local and national non-profits; he didn't pick just one "winner" to the detriment of his other causes.

He shared it with all of them, even as he included his extended family.

If you think you might like to include the College Fund of Pinellas County in your trust, will, or other bequest, please call our president, Dave Rogers, our treasurer, Ken Fullerton, or any of our board members you might know, so that we can know your desires and plan for our futures together.

### Thanks to the Optimist Club

In a similar vein, we salute the Optimist Club of St. Petersburg for sponsoring a College Fund student every year since 2007! The Optimists add a special twist to their generosity by sponsoring an individual student, from St. Petersburg, of course, so that they can get to know the students during their college careers.

Once again relying on College Fund Math, the Optimists have sent 17 years' worth of Pinellas students to college, or more than four graduated collegians! If you think your group—a service club, a neighborhood, a church, a condo building—might want to be a scholarship sponsor, call Dave Rogers at 727-459-0724, and let's talk.

### Presentations

Two presentations were made on behalf of the College Fund during the summer months. **Palm Harbor Cares** and **100 Women Who Care-Pinellas** selected us to introduce/describe our charity in hopes of being awarded their quarterly grants. Both groups function similarly: three groups are selected and have five minutes to present plus five minutes for Q and A. The members then vote with one group receiving the funds.

Board member Bette Ra Ivey attended the July meeting of Palm Harbor Cares with President Dave Rogers who presented. The Lighthouse for Visually Impaired and Vincent House were also represented. Vincent House (job and social skills program for those dealing with mental illness) was awarded the grant.

100 Women Who Care met in August where board member, Lynda Lippman-Lockhart supported vice-president Sandy Campbell in her presentation. The other two groups who introduced their non-profits were Florida Dream Center and the winner, Ruth's Promise Day Care for Adults which provides programs for older adults and respite for caregivers.

Non-Profits are allowed to re-apply to these groups every quarter unless they are awarded the grant. We will apply again and to a third similar group, 100 Women who Care-St. Petersburg, for their fall meetings.

There was tremendous value in making presentations to two large charitable groups. Many more people are now familiar with the College Fund and our work. Several individuals made a point reaching out about their interest in supporting us and contacting potential student groups.

### Special Dates to Remember

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023:** The Annual ***Student Holiday Luncheon*** will be held again. Come meet the students we are supporting, our Board of Directors, and our community supporters at Anona United Methodist Church, 13233 Indian Rocks Road in Largo from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The students bring their grades from the fall 2023 semester to receive their scholarship check for the spring 2024 semester. ***Wear your school colors*** and join in the fun!



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