



In Bloom at Blossom

Blossom Students Awarded College Scholarships for Academic Achievement

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Blossom eighth-grade student, Erika Cook, and Blossom alumnus, Edward Fountain, were awarded 4-year Florida Pre-paid College Scholarships this spring by Tampa's ChairScholars Foundation in partnership with Blossom and the Pinellas Education Foundation. Dr. Hugo Keim and his wife, Alicia, created the ChairSchol-

ars Foundation in 1992 to give students with disabilities an opportunity for a college education. Erika and Edward are among 67 students awarded college scholarships by Dr. and Mrs. Keim and their foundation in 2011. Presenting the scholarships were Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Coach Raheem Morris, Bucs Cornerback

Rhonde Barber, former Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio and outstanding ChairScholar Labrawn Saffold. "We were impressed with Blossom when we visited your school and we're very proud of the students we awarded this year. We hope to be able to fund more of your children in the coming years," said Alicia Keim.

Evening of Culinary Arts and Illusion at Café Ponte

Thanks to Chef Chris Ponte and his entire staff for an evening to remember at *An Evening of Culinary Arts and Illusion* at Café Ponte. Generously sponsored by Bright House Networks, the evening featured Chef Ponte's culinary artistry. Entertaining guests between courses were the illusions of

acclaimed magicians, Mark Byrne and Deaf illusionist, Simon Carmel. Doves and flowers appeared, and one Blossom student floated in the air as diners enjoyed fine wines and a six-course culinary masterpiece prepared specially for Blossom's guests by Chef Ponte and his team. Proceeds

from the event will benefit Blossom's scholarship program. "This was the nicest event I've ever attended," said one guest. "You have to do this again next year."



Blossom's Students Inspire Crowd at Z-Fest



Downtown Clearwater was transformed on April 16 into a Deaf Culture festival as ZVRS sponsored Z-Fest. The event is a daylong, annual celebration of the culture of our Tampa Bay neighbors and friends who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Joining drummers, comedians and dancers on Z's main stage were the purple-clad students of Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf as they signed several songs including *My Own Two Hands* and *Lean on Me*. Joining in the applause was Jenny Locy, one of Blossom's newest board members

from ZVRS. Our thanks to ZVRS for donating a portion of the proceeds from the event to Blossom.

As Blossom's children concluded their emotionally-charged performance they were joined on stage by Clearwater Council Member George Cretokos who praised our students saying, "These children are a shining example that our Deaf children can be anything they want to be, perhaps even President of the United States someday."

Strokes of Genius...Days of Fun and Learning

Art of all kinds is in the eyes and the imaginations of its beholders. The Strokes of Genius Program at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg's brings our students to the museum throughout the year to experience the art of the masters firsthand, and then allows our students to use their own hands to recreate the art they have just experienced.

Blossom's students study art by world-renowned artists like O'Keeffe and Monet and then emulate the artists work as they create their own works of art. Their year of artistic expression culminates each spring in a Garden Party at the museum where our students display their works for museum guests.

"Appreciation and understand-

ing art is important to the learning process for our children at Blossom because they are able to fully engage their other senses of sight and touch as they learn," says Blossom's Director Julie Rutenberg. "We can't thank Anna Glenn and Museum of Fine Arts of enough helping to make this outstanding program possible."



New Technology Means Greater Reliability

xByte Technologies of Sarasota, a leading global IT equipment dealer, donated two sets of Dell PowerEdge Servers to the Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf. "This is our way of showing our gratitude for the year that brought xByte to an unprecedented

level of growth," says Tom Santilli, CEO of xByte Technologies.

"I can't thank xByte enough for giving us the technology to bring our school into the 21st Century," said Richard Engwall, Blossom President.

"This contribution will allow us to provide our students and staff with technology that simply would otherwise not be possible within our regular school budget. Also, our thanks to Kim and Ron During and K-tek for helping make this gift possible."



Blossom Students Become TV Stars

Blossom's days are filled with science, math, art, reading, and all of the subjects we're accustomed to seeing during a school day, but recently Blossom's students were able to learn a little about television production firsthand as AdPartners spent the day at Blossom shooting a new television public service announcement for the school, directed by award-winning producer/director Curtis Graham. The new PSA is part of a comprehensive marketing and advertising campaign

being created for Blossom by AdPartners, its CEO Tony Ceresoli and his entire team. In addition to the new PSA, the campaign will include print, radio and outdoor advertising, social media, and a redesigned Blossom web site. The new TV spot features Blossom board member Roger Vass along with many of Blossom's students and staff members. According to Rich Engwall, "Tony and his remarkable AdPartners staff are bringing a new dimension to the outreach of our school to this community. We deeply appreciate their generosity."



Thanks to our Classroom Partners

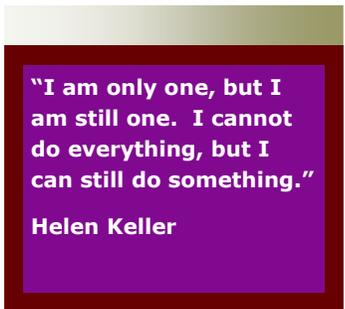
\$180 can go a long way if you let Blossom's teachers invest it in their students through Blossom's Classroom Partners Program.

Every dollar contributed goes directly to the purchase of classroom supplies including Montessori materials, computer software, teaching aids, printers and printer car-

tridges, educational resource materials, new books for the classrooms and media center, art supplies, and so much more. In return, your name will be placed adjacent to the door of your adopted classroom, you'll receive a class picture and thank you letters from students, and you'll know that your gift has made a difference at Blossom.

Thanks to Classroom Partners:

- Kathryn Feaster
- Joan & Jane Kochan
- West Central Gastroenterology
- Monty's Pizzeria
- USAmeribank



Blossom Students Walk for Dollars

With spring's warmer weather came the much-anticipated 2011 Blossom Walk-a-Thon as Blossom's students, parent volunteers and staff put on their walking shoes to raise money for Blossom athletic equipment. Students, from Pre-School to

Middle School, generated pledges from family and friends and then spent a sunny March afternoon walking up to thirty laps around the school and playground to raise almost \$900 for new soccer nets, basketballs, and other playground and physical education equipment needs.



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OUR VISION

To be the premier education and communication center for families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children in the state of Florida.

Blossom's Children Need Your Help Now!



As a non-profit, Blossom is continually seeking financial support for:

- Scholarships for students in need.
- Enrichment activities for our students.
- Professional development scholarships for teacher training.
- Technology to enhance student learning.
- Volunteer support.
- In-kind contributions including van transportation.

To become a partner of the Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf and help give our children a chance, please contact Rich Engwall at 727-539-7879 or by e-mail at rengwall@blossomschool.org.

Blossom School, Inc. is a 501C3 organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. #CH27378