2019-2020 Education Foundation
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Establish a scholarship initiative that ensures all students are prepared for and have the resources to succeed in higher education.

Support district recruitment and retention of qualified teachers and staff.

Manage charter schools that provide quality facilities and administration to support the School District’s efforts to meet growth and provide outstanding education to students.

Expand support of enhancement programs and mentoring opportunities, which address district, classroom, and student needs.

Develop an awareness program that involves the community in supporting and sustaining the mission of the Education Foundation.

Goals

Mission

Bringing resources and people together to support and enhance public education in Osceola County.

Year at a Glance

$1.7 million in school supplies distributed through A Gift For Teaching

$600,000 awarded through 400 scholarships to Osceola County students

A/B Ranked charter schools with a total of 2,594 students served

500 3rd Graders were served in 27 schools, 30 extra minutes per week through Bookmark Buddies

2,400 students explored careers in the medical and construction industries through Career Pipelines

100% Graduation Rate for Take Stock in Children Gold Status program

7,900 volunteer hours donated

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Overview

Strengthening education in Osceola County since 1985. The Education Foundation Osceola County is thankful for our community partners, donors, sponsors, mentors, and volunteers who contributed to our successes this year. We work to ensure that all students benefit from high-quality public education and have the resources they need to graduate prepared for a post-secondary path and life, because we believe education is the key to success.

The Foundation’s committed 30 member Board of Directors provides leadership with transparency and accountability that give donors confidence in their investments. The board and staff work together to achieve fundraising and key performance goals with incremental reporting to ensure achievement in the Osceola School District’s mission of “Inspiring all learners to reach their highest potential as responsible, productive citizens”.

Based on most recent statistics, Osceola County is ranked as the fifth fastest growing county in the nation, and since 2016, the School District of Osceola County has seen an increase in students by 33%. In the 2019-2020 school year, 86% of students were on Free and Reduced Lunch, which is an indicator of low to moderate income, and are the same students that benefit immensely from our programs. Not only is our county one of the fastest growing in the nation, but students in our schools represent over 100 different nations and speak over 100 different languages. Our programs service 77 different schools within the county and include all grades from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Despite our students representing over 100 different nations, and the challenges that come along with learning in your second language, the graduating class of 2020 achieved a record breaking graduation rate of 90%, placing Osceola County above the state average for the 2019-2020 school year.

Financial Stewardship

The Education Foundation Osceola County is led by a Board of Directors that provides good stewardship of all funds. The dedicated staff ensures best practices for managing and administering funds. Together our team operates a $2+ million annual budget that provides direct support for 77 schools that serve over 69,000 students and 5,000 teachers, with the support of our community.
Other Accomplishments

- Launched Pencil Boy Express in March 2020, delivering over $500,000 in essential school supplies to the classroom.
- A Gift For Teaching- 98% of teachers stated having access to school supplies allowed them to create a more equal learning environment.
- Scholarships- $1.5 million Central Florida Foundation Endowment and $3.2 million Valencia Endowment.
- Take Stock in Children- 26 students graduated from the program with a scholarship that makes their college dreams a reality.
- Career Pipelines- 40 community partners and 125 volunteers that donate their time to our students.
- Bookmark Buddies- Over 350 volunteers donate their time to mentor our 3rd grade Bookmark Buddies.

"Anytime you choose to mentor a student, you are guaranteed to get more out of it than you think, maybe even more than the student."
- John Gebhardt

"The businesses that donate are a blessing to the schools in Osceola County, but more importantly they are making a difference in children's lives! I want to take a moment to say thank you. I really appriciate their contributions."
- Ms. Woollet

Collaborative Initiatives

- Arts Education- Supporting arts education through various programs such as VPK Strings, StArt, and Going Darc, which impacted 30,210 students. The Foundation also offers the opportunity for students to receive live music lessons from an industry professional.
- Early Learning- Osceola Reads initiative helped over 3,000 children through Footsteps2Brilliance.
- Career and College Readiness- Programs that support students developing their post-secondary plans by teaching them about the accessibility and affordability of their options. This information is taught through mentoring sessions, "Got College? Got Careers?" school visits, and after school programs. Through these initiatives, over 3,600 students were served during the school year.
The information included in this annual report is based on the 2019-2020 fiscal year at Education Foundation Osceola County. We are proud of all that we have accomplished and look forward to the impact we will make in the upcoming year.

Additional information about the Education Foundation can be found on our website at www.foundationosceola.org or by calling 407-870-4855.