



# THANK YOU

Thank You Members and Donors

## Black Diamond Foundation October 2019 Update

### Community Survey Results

Several months ago my monthly letter had a member survey attached. Our intent was to identify the areas members believed investing Foundation donations would have the highest impact. The number of responses was small but a review of the results showed you feel that investment in education is far and away the best way to break the cycle of poverty and under employment in Citrus County. This was reassuring to the Board because a large portion of our giving is focused on education. Here are highlights of some of these programs.

**YMCA early readers program:** In addition to latchkey after school programs for children of working parents, the Foundation funds a special program at each elementary school focused on at risk first graders. The program provides remedial reading education for students who are identified as behind in reading skills. To date, nearly all of the students who have been in the program have been promoted to the fourth grade.

**Aspire:** The State of Florida mandates health and healthy lifestyle programs as part of all school curriculums. Aspire provides course outlines and content for these programs in Citrus County Schools. The course content focuses on relationship development as well as sex and drug information. This helps our county students make good personal choices that have lifelong

consequences.

**Early Learning Coalition:** Low income children often enter the school system already behind their peers. The Early Learning Coalition provides day care funding for children of parents that would normally not be able to pay for daycare. These children are then exposed to early childhood programs that help them better compete when they enter the school environment.

**CF/WTC:** Both the College of Central Florida and Withlatchoochee Technical College have ongoing scholarship funds from the Foundation that are used to support Citrus County students who need extra financial support to continue their education.

**Take Stock in Children:** This program pairs at risk high school students with a mentor from the community. Each student entering the program is guaranteed a scholarship to college. The Foundation contributes to the scholarship fund. Several members of the Black Diamond community are mentors.

**Boys and Girls Club:** The summer programs run by the Boys and Girls Club have an education component focused on making sure students do not lose ground over the summer in critical math and reading skills.

This list is not complete but it is meant to show that the Foundation is in agreement that a focus on education is critical to Citrus County.

In closing, the renovated fitness center opened in September with all new equipment and the Quarry bunker renovation started early September. Looks

like it will be a great season!

Foster

**[Click here to visit the Black Diamond Foundation website](#)**