

CEO FOUNDATION



CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION (of Central Florida)

Advisory Council

Frank Brogan
*Commissioner of Education
State of Florida*

Reverend R. B. Holmes, Ph.D.
Pastor, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Glenda Hood
Mayor, Orlando, Florida

J. Stanley Marshall, Ph.D.
*President, James Madison Institute;
Former President, Florida State
University*

N. Y. Nathiri
*Executive Director
Preserve Eatonville Community, Inc.*

Board of Trustees

George Noga
Founder and Chairman Emeritus

Doug Doudney (Chairman)
Doudney Investment Co.

John Lahey (President)
Sedgewick James of Florida, Inc.

Sally Simmons (Exec. Dir.)
CEO Foundation of Central Florida

Reverend Randolph Bracy, Jr.
Pastor, New Covenant Baptist Church

Edward Cole
Rollins College

John Curtis, Ph.D.
President, The Delatfield Corp.

Carol Cycmanick-Mackoul
Sweetwater Episcopal Academy

Tony Eveland
Computer Systems Developer

James A. Fowler, Esquire
Fowler, Barice, Feeney & O'Quinn, P.A.

Gerry Garcia
DAVGAR, Inc.

Gail S. Handy
Community Volunteer

Deon Long, Esquire
Long & Pryor, P.A.

Peter Matthews, Ph.D.
Private Investor

John C. Mitchell, III, Esquire
Mitchell & Associates, P.A.

William Miller
Access Incorporated

Frank Sanderlin
Sanderlin, Hamlin & Scott

George Yanovitch
Yanovitch Properties

Honorary Trustees

Stuart Brewer Brown
Susan Kellett

The Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation, Inc. is a privately funded 501(c)3 organization, established to address the educational needs of students from low income families. Our goal is to give these families options by enabling them to choose a school they believe will best suit their child's needs.

In Florida, typically only the affluent are able to exercise school choice. Their financial situation allows them to afford homes near the most desirable schools. Or they may bypass the public system altogether and place their children in carefully chosen independent schools.

The parents who apply to CEO of Central Florida do not have either of these choices. Their limited economic resources (an average of \$5,700 per person, per household), make buying a home and/or financing a private education an impossibility. However, they understand that only education will provide their children with the tools they need to have economically successful lives. As one of the parents recently remarked, "This is as important to my child as food.... I am not able to give him material things, but I will give him the education that he needs to be able to provide for himself and for a family some day."

Our efforts are in no way meant to be a condemnation or indictment of the public school system or it's teachers. Our goal is simply to provide an alternative for a group of people who, because of financial circumstances alone, have none.

CEO students meet three requirements. They must be between the age of 5K and 5th grade; they must live in Orange, Osceola or Seminole county; and the family income must fall within the financial guidelines for the Federal School Lunch Program. A three year CEO grant offers partial tuition aid; payment of 1/2 of the tuition charge, up to \$1,000/ student / year. They are awarded in periodic lottery drawings.

Since its inception in March of 1995, the CEO Foundation of Central Florida has received over 2,700 applications and has awarded 559 tuition grants. At present, there are over 2,100 students in central Florida waiting for the opportunity to choose a school based on their specific needs.

More than any other group in our society, the parents of CEO students understand what an education means to the future of the individual who has it!

Sincerely,
Sally P. Simmons
Executive Director

CEO FOUNDATION of CENTRAL FLORIDA : FAST FACTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the CEO Foundation is to assist in equalizing educational opportunities for low income students in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. The Foundation accomplishes this by offering these families educational options that are usually unavailable to them because of cost. All CEO funds are received from private sources, primarily from businessmen concerned about the lack of academic choices available to low income families.

QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- The student must be a resident of and attend school in either Orange, Osceola or Seminole county.
- The student must qualify for the federal "free" or reduced price lunch program.
- The student's age must fall within the (inclusive) range of grades K-5 through 5.

As of September 1998, the CEO Foundation has received nearly 2,800 applications

2300+ children are on the CEO of Central Florida wait list

There are currently funds for 104 Central Florida Students to receive CEO assistance

There are 96 students currently utilizing CEO grants

As of this date, 45 schools (of the 186 tri-county schools) have been selected by our grant recipients for the current school year.

\$2,303.07 is the average tuition of the schools chosen in 1998-1999

\$628.41 is the average amount paid by CEO per student this year

The average income of a Central Florida CEO family is \$5,700 per person per family per year (as of 9/97)

Since 1995, 572 needy children have received tuition assistance from the CEO Foundation of Central Florida

Since August 1995, \$510,167.09 has been paid toward tuitions

91.76% of CEO funds are used to pay tuitions; 5.98% are used for salaries (there is only one paid employee); 2.26% are used for office expenses

1101 N. Lake Destiny Rd. * Suite 225 * Maitland, Florida 32751
phone (407) 629-8787 FAX - days (407) 629-1319 * evenings (407) 660-9262

The final figures for 1997-98 are: 31 CEO Foundations in 19 states, with 11 scheduled to open within the next several months. Since 1991, more than \$45 million has been invested in these programs nationwide by businessmen concerned about the lack of academic choices available to children of low income families

Over 12,141 children nationwide are benefiting from CEO grant money

Over 45,668 children in the US have applied and are waiting for grants

The affiliations of the schools chosen by local CEO students for the 1998-99 school year are listed below:

- 13 chose nondenominational Christian schools
- 12 chose Baptist schools
- 6 chose Catholic schools
- 2 chose interdenominational schools
- 2 chose schools run by the Church of God
- 1 chose a Lutheran school
- 2 chose Seventh Day Adventist schools
- 1 chose a Methodist school
- 1 chose a school run by the AME Church
- 1 chose a school run by the Grace Brethren Church
- 1 chose a United Pentecostal school
- 3 chose nonreligious schools
- 2 are being homeschooled

The following is the grade level distribution of the CEO students for the 1998-99 school year:

Kindergarten - 0	6 th grade - 13
1st grade - 3	7 th grade - 7
2 nd grade - 15	8 th grade - 11
3 rd grade - 25	9 th grade - 4
4 th grade - 9	10 th grade - 0
5 th grade - 7	11 th grade - 2

CURRENT LOCAL STATISTICS

As of 1997, the estimated population of Orange County is 803,644; Osceola County, 143,828; and Seminole county, 350,000. *The total population of the tri-county area is 1,297,472.*

The K-12 population in our community. . . Orange County . . . 151,594; Osceola . . . 30,467; Seminole . . . 64,827. *The total K-12 population is 246,888.*


Number of students in public . . . 218,129. Number of students in private . . . 28,759

The percentage of the above numbers eligible for the Federal lunch program . . .
Orange County - 44.82%, Osceola County - 42.25%, Seminole County - 18%
The total for the tri-county area is 34%

There are 186 private schools in the tri county area.

Details are as follows:

Independent *****	56
Catholic *****	13
Other Christian ***	109
Muslim *****	1
Afro-Centric *****	5
Jewish *****	2
<hr/>	
TOTAL *****	186



DOUBLE R
PRIVATE SCHOOL

725 Country School Trail
Chuluota, Florida 32766
(407) 365-6856
Fax: 365-0543



July 11, 1998

Sally Simmons, Executive Director
CEO Foundation, Inc.
1101 N. Lake Destiny Road, Suite 225
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Sally,

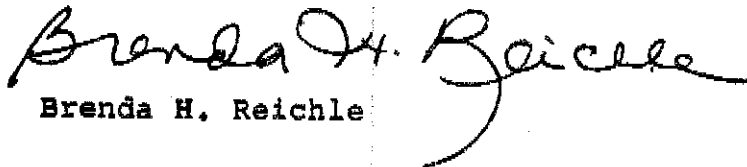
THANK YOU for helping my families! The family has seen such a difference in their two children that they can't thank my teachers enough. We keep telling them that it is THEIR CHILDREN who have conquered knowledge, we were the tools they used.

The boys were written off as non-learners. They can now read, write and do math (very well actually!). They are PROUD of their ability to learn. The CEO Foundation gave the family the opportunity to send their children to the Double R.

I listen to many parents who "beg" for a chance to come to the school. They offer to paint, clean, help build...just to give their children a chance. We have three families at present who receive scholarship help like this. We have six families whose parents work at the school to offset the tuition. CEO is helping two of my families.

Please continue to do the good deeds that you do. We will all be repaid a thousand times over with good, kind citizens who will perpetuate good, kind citizens!

Thank you again.


Brenda H. Reichle

April 2, 1998

CEO Foundation
Orlando, FL

To all concerned,

This is a letter to express my deepest and heartfelt gratitude for all you have done for me and my children in the past two years. Whether or not your help can continue in the coming year will not diminish the incredible difference you have already made.

Divorce shattered the dreams I had for my daughter, Carolanne. Little did I know that just after her first birthday, I would not only be a single parent, but also I would find out that I was pregnant with my son, Bo. Now with no income and nothing left to fall back on because of the divorce, I ended up living again with my parents, who could provide a roof over our heads, and food on the table, but that was all. The state gave us medicaid and AFDC, and while I was a full-time student, day care for my children. There was no help received in terms of child support.

I always knew I would have work hard to give my children the same advantages I had growing up. We all know times have changed, and school atmospheres and environments have changed also. Always hoping to be able to send my children to Catholic school, anyway, to give them a little better preparation for the world, I now had thoughts that they would have that if I were not around. I was depressed enough to think that I was worth more dead than alive. I could not even buy them new shoes or take them to a movie once in a while. In less than three months, my life had changed from a typical American family with a home, husband and friends to a single parent with nothing, having to move to a city with no connections other than my parents, and another baby on the way.

My father encouraged me to get my children into the local parochial school, and with his help, we made it through two years. After finishing school myself, I was beginning to get back on my feet. I had gotten a job teaching and things were looking up for the first time in close to eight years.

The light at the end of the tunnel dimmed all too soon when my father found out he had cancer, and six months later was no longer with us. I was now doing what I could to help my mother, in addition to taking care of my little ones with no assistance.

A part time job helped, though it did take time away from my munchkins. The light went out completely when the school system went through cutbacks, and, having less than three years and a higher expectation of teaching, I was let go.

That is when you stepped in. I applied for a tuition subsidy at Good Shepherd, who in turn submitted my name to you. When I received your letter of acceptance, I did not yet understand the scope of your intervention. I can only believe that God does work miracles today, through people like you. I was working three part-time jobs, and still not making ends meet when your financial help gave me faith again that there are still generous people in the world. You touch the people who fall through the cracks, and you may think it is only financial help you offer. You also gave me back my belief in others and dignity in myself.

I felt like I was given a gift, and to make it mean everything possible, I had to do more to change the situation I was in. I started looking for another job, not knowing that during this time I had also met my future husband. I did get a job offer at the hospital, and it included benefits! I could start paying off some of the bills that had accumulated over the years of struggle, and stay up to date on present ones. Pete and I were married last August, and though we are still having to watch our pennies, all four of us get to see a movie now and then.

We have no idea, yet, of how we can afford to keep both Carolanne and Bo in a private school through high school graduation. Somehow we will manage. We both believe that if we provide a firm foundation for them, the choices they make afterward will let them be positive, contributing members of society. Whether they go to college or join the service, Carolanne and Bo will be prepared for their future.

I do not know what would have happened without the two years of financial assistance you have given me for my children. I would not even like to guess. Whether or not it continues for another year is up to you. I do know that there are other people in greater need than myself, and should they receive the grant rather than me, I still owe you a world of thanks. I want, and fully expect to someday be on the giving end rather than the receiving. It may be many years from now, but prayers have already been answered. Contributing back is another prayer.

The CEO Foundation grant to me has been an absolute godsend. Your outpouring of generosity is representative of the kind of people you are. I have no doubt that all the people involved in the foundation will receive tenfold what they have given. May God's blessings be with each and every one of you, and please continue in this work of miracles.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Sincerely, with much
gratitude and love, -

June 30, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known [redacted] from infancy. He has always been a bright intelligent child. He is full of energy and lively interest in all things around him. Garnell has always been so eager to learn he would hop from one subject to another hardly digesting what you had already told him. He is an only child and did not have the opportunity to socialize with other youngsters his age as much as other children may have and I believe this caused a problem - a factor which had an adverse affect on his public school education.

I have had the opportunity as his tutor to see his old spark of interest in learning since he has been attending New Life Word Center Christian School. He seems more capable of focusing with the smaller group setting. His grades and behavior have improved.

His mother, [redacted] has always worked hard as a single parent to provide the best for her son. However, continuing to pay the tuition for Garnell's education is more than her small salary can handle. I truly believe this grant will allow [redacted] to continue to improve and achieve the success that his performance this past year has proved him capable of achieving.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]
teacher