

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

Take Stock in Mentoring



by Yurianna Mikolay
Executive Director
Ocean Reef Community Foundation



January is National Mentoring Month and a great time to celebrate mentoring and the Ocean Reef community's longtime partnership with Take Stock in Children (TSIC) of Monroe County.

TSIC matches low-income, at-risk kids with caring mentors in the seventh grade. Mentors see their mentees all the way through high school, meeting weekly during the school year to ensure they have the support they need to succeed and graduate. When students meet the terms of a contract to stay out of trouble and achieve academically, they are awarded with a scholarship to a Florida school upon graduation. Most are the first in their families to go to college.

The Foundation has consistently granted TSIC scholarships for Coral Shores High School graduates, matched 100% by the Florida Pre-Paid College Program, for more than a decade. The Keys Children's Foundation and several of our Donor Advised Funds are also staunch supporters. Together Ocean Reef charities and private donors have sent 24 students to college in just the last three years. The match is a good incentive to give and the results are even better,

and steadily improving.

Mentoring programs have some of the most dramatic, life-changing results of any of the programs we fund. Pair the support of a dedicated mentor with a college scholarship as TSIC does, and higher education goes from an unlikely pipe dream to a realistic, achievable goal to strive toward. Compare the national average of 25% of at-risk kids who earn a degree with TSIC's rate of 63% for 2007-2011 graduates.

Plentiful statistics aside, the best evidence in support of mentoring and TSIC is your fellow members' personal investment. **Denise Anderton, Chris Callsen, Jay Holmes, Ray Jansen, Jim Leenhouts, Loretta Mackay, Rich Miller and Michelle Musto** are all currently mentoring Keys students. Card Sound Golf Club GM Diana Platt is a mentor, too. Quite a few of these folks are longtime mentors and at least a dozen more members and employees have mentored in the past. Another TSIC mentor, **Phyllis Foster** now serves on the board of the Monroe County Education Foundation which runs the TSIC program.

Former Foundation President



TSIC Program Coordinator Chuck Licis with Ocean Reef Community Foundation Scholars Evelyn Betancourt and Harry Normington at the 2016 Coral Shores High School graduation. Evelyn is now on a pre-med track at Florida International University and Harry is pursuing an aerospace engineering degree at University of Central Florida. See their "thank you" messages in The Link newsletter.

John Taylor was so inspired by the success of the TSIC model he saw in his Grants Committee work that he replicated it in his native Ohio with TSIC's help. The Montgomery County College Promise program will mentor and send 500 disadvantaged kids to college over 10 years. High praise indeed. According to Taylor, "The mentoring is the key."

While the benefit for kids is the

actual focus, mentor **Jim Leenhouts** would like members to know how tremendously personally fulfilling it is to be a mentor. He's been at it for about 10 years and he beams when he talks about the experience and helping mentees handle problems and succeed, feeling he made a meaningful difference in their lives. To hear a mentor tell it, they clearly share in the rewards.



COMPLETE MARINE ELECTRONICS SOLUTIONS

WE PROVIDE "AT YOUR DOCKSIDE SERVICE"

SERVING OCEAN REEF FOR OVER 15 YEARS

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM OR CALL US FOR A CUSTOM TAILORED ELECTRONICS PACKAGE

405 NW. SOUTH RIVER DRIVE, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
PHONE: (305) 326-9555 • TOLL FREE: (800) 826-5716 • FAX: (305)326-9511
155 EAST BLUE HERON BLVD. RIVIERA BEACH FL 33404 • 561-910-9555
EMAIL: INFO@LANGERKRELL.COM • WWW.LANGERKRELL.COM



We SELL New, Refurbished & Customized Golf Carts From anything Simple to Top of the Line

ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS & SERVICE

Short & Long Term RENTALS

We offer Golf Cart STORAGE

Best Prices & Warranty

(305) 453-0553

www.hotrodcartsforyou.com

100830 Overseas Hwy Key Largo, FL 33037